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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Statutory issues

Summary report on the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

I. Introduction

1. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), together with the Government of Rwanda, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations system,¹ convened the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Kigali, from 3 to 5 March 2022.

2. Over 1,800 participants, comprising ministers and other high-level representatives of the Governments of 52 ECA member States, along with representatives of intergovernmental bodies, United Nations entities, other international organizations, major groups and other stakeholders attended the Forum in person or online.

II. Executive summary

3. The Forum noted that the general trend in the African region was a lag in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and weak integration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union into national development frameworks. Multiple crises, including growing debt stress, climate change, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the war in Ukraine undermined the implementation of the global and regional goals.

* E/ECA/COE/41/1.

¹The following United Nations system entities were involved as partners: Development Coordination Office, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Sustainable Development Group, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, United Nations Office to the African Union, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Volunteers Programme, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and World Food Programme.



4. The Forum identified and agreed on concrete actions and initiatives that are crucial to building resilience and accelerating the implementation of the two sustainable development frameworks in the region.
5. The Forum recommended that developed countries facilitate equitable access to and manufacture of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines to enable African countries to recover faster from COVID-19 and other pandemics.
6. The Forum also recommended that member States:
 - (a) Strengthen domestic resource mobilization and implement budgetary policies to foster the green economy and mitigate the effects of climate change, including through initiatives such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative and the Great Blue Wall initiative, to ensure sustainable and inclusive post-pandemic socioeconomic recovery;
 - (b) Recognize the role of science, technology and innovation as enablers of sustainable development, invest at least 1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in research and development, strengthen education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and increase the participation of women in those fields;
 - (c) Promote gender equality to address the opportunity cost of sidelining women, which is estimated to be \$60 billion annually, and use a gender-inclusive approach in implementing and monitoring the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;
 - (d) Strengthen national statistical systems, collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the use of non-official data sources and disaggregated data in their reporting on the two agendas;
 - (e) Use national and subnational reviews to promote national-subnational partnerships and multi-stakeholder dialogue, ensure that no one is left behind, align national development plans with the two agendas and raise resources to achieve the objectives of the two agendas;
 - (f) Push for developed countries at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to honour their commitment to provide \$100 billion in climate finance annually and increase significantly the share of that amount that is allocated to adaptation;
 - (g) Strengthen broad-based, inclusive and coordinated partnerships that are key drivers of sustainable development and the effective implementation of the two agendas, which will require the strategic engagement of State and non-State actors and development partners;
 - (h) Ensure that African issues are on the agenda at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and take the lead in the pursuit of climate-finance innovation, with the support of ECA and the United Nations system, to help establish a truly developmental carbon market in Africa to create jobs and achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement.

III. Opening of the session [agenda item 1]

7. The session was officially opened by the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame.
8. The Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and the Congo Basin of the Congo, and Chair of the seventh session of the Forum, Arlette Soudan-Nonault, highlighted the achievements of the Bureau of the seventh session of the Forum and called upon the incoming Bureau of the eighth session to focus on several priorities, including funding mechanisms for a sustainable recovery, the accelerated

implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, the Great Green Wall and the Great Blue Wall initiatives, and capacity-building for women and young people in science, technology and innovation to achieve sustainable development.

9. The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ECA, Vera Songwe, outlined recent African achievements, namely the acquisition of COVID-19 vaccines and the creation of the African Medicines Agency, digital transformation, the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and contributions to the landmark resolution on plastics adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly in March 2022. She called for stronger intellectual property protection for young Africans to spur innovation, job creation and employment and she urged member States to ensure delivery on African priorities at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including in respect of the means of implementation and a global consensus on carbon pricing.

10. The President of the Economic and Social Council and Permanent Representative of Botswana to the United Nations, Collen Kelapile, outlined five actions to achieve a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic: ensuring equitable access to life-saving vaccines, ensuring adequate fiscal space for African countries to finance COVID-19 recovery efforts, addressing the climate crisis and supporting Egypt in hosting a climate summit that delivered for Africa, tackling persistent inequality within and between countries, and making the African Continental Free Trade Area work for Africa. He reiterated the commitment of the Economic and Social Council to support Africa and informed the Forum that he and the President of the General Assembly had decided to convene a special event on African development.

11. The Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, Josefa Sacko, noted that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on African public health and economies presented an opportunity to build back stronger and greener, and that the Green Recovery Action Plan of the African Union provided crucial support to ECA member States in areas such as climate finance, renewable energy, nature-based solutions, resilient agriculture and green and resilient cities. She urged the Forum to propose practical recommendations and reiterated the commitment of the African Union Commission to implementing policy recommendations in partnership with ECA and other stakeholders.

12. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed, noted the deficit in global solidarity in responding to the pandemic and the worsened education and health outcomes in Africa that resulted from a lack of adequate internet connectivity and affordable energy. She urged member States to focus on five priority areas: ending the pandemic and building resilience to future shocks, scaling up climate resilience with developed countries honouring their pledges, achieving a just transition in energy and food systems, recovering education losses and supporting gender equality. She called upon member States to prioritize the African Continental Free Trade Area and to forge partnerships to secure the investment that was required.

13. President Kagame noted that the pandemic had slowed African socioeconomic development and had reversed progress that had been made. He emphasized that recovery efforts could serve as a springboard to accelerate progress, invest in human capital and build a greener and more resilient Africa using the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 as blueprints. He called upon member States to build partnerships to strengthen the vaccine manufacturing capacity of Africa, to prioritize domestic resource mobilization to finance African development and to use the African Continental Free Trade Area to promote the adoption of sustainable technologies and infrastructure that support green growth. He stressed the importance of reviewing progress through national and subnational voluntary reviews.

IV. Summary of key messages

14. The following sections summarize the key messages, including priorities, policy options and recommendations, that arose from the Forum.

A. High-level panel on unlocking financing to build forward better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa [agenda item 2]

15. Following the discussion during the high-level panel, the Forum urged member States:

(a) To work with the private sector and international stakeholders, such as the United Nations entities and multilateral banks, to address urgent financial and public health challenges caused by the pandemic;

(b) To promote gender equality, including ownership of assets, to address the opportunity cost of sidelining women, which was estimated to be \$60 billion annually;

(c) To create a conducive environment for the private sector to contribute to socioeconomic development in Africa;

(d) To switch their economic growth models from resource extraction to value addition to reduce resource dependency;

(e) To undertake robust domestic market reforms to stimulate private sector development and inclusive access to finance;

(f) To support the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises by identifying and implementing de-risking mechanisms, lowering interest rates, facilitating access to external finance and providing tax incentives.

B. Highlights of progress at the regional and subregional levels in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063 in the context of the COVID-19 crisis [agenda item 4]

16. Following this discussion, the Forum agreed on the following key messages:

(a) Member States were urged:

(i) To align national development plans with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 with the help of the integrated planning and reporting toolkit;

(ii) To use the African Continental Free Trade Area to promote regional integration and industrialization to compete at the regional and global levels;

(iii) To promote nature conservation as one of the continent's greatest resources and to leverage its transformative potential, including through the monetization of carbon sequestration;

(iv) To take advantage of digital transformation to unlock the potential of education, health, social protection and trade;

(v) To enhance regional cooperation and the mobilization of domestic resources and to use special drawing rights to catalyze the achievement of development goals;

(b) Member States, ECA, the African Export-Import Bank, the African Development Bank, and other development partners were urged to develop capacity and tools, including access to finance, monitoring and evaluation, to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

C. Plenary round-table panel on boosting the generation and use of data and statistics to build forward better and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa [agenda item 5]

17. Following the discussion during the plenary round-table panel, the Forum urged member States:

(a) To harmonize and integrate their statistical systems, to strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and non-official data producers and to facilitate constant communication among national statistical offices and the public and private sectors;

(b) To develop quality assurance frameworks for non-official data and legal frameworks for data-sharing among stakeholders;

(c) To support young statisticians in their efforts to modernize national statistical systems for reporting on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including through professional development and use of information and communications technologies;

(d) To improve the capacity of national statistical systems for big data, data science, high-level disaggregated data, technology and spatial data, and to strengthen their reporting on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

D. Plenary round-table panels on national and subnational actions and reviews to build forward better and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa: voluntary national reviews and peer learning to strengthen country-level interventions [agenda item 6 (a)]

18. Following the discussion during the plenary round-table panel, the Forum urged member States:

(a) To share best practices and learn from their peers;

(b) To incorporate feedback from stakeholders and communities, including women, young people and civil society, in order to improve the implementation of subsequent reviews;

(c) To focus the reviews on the Sustainable Development Goals that are most relevant to national priorities while recognizing the interdependence of all the Goals;

(d) To embed within the review process the accountability of Governments towards civil society stakeholders;

(e) To prioritize the most vulnerable groups and those most left behind by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as children;

(f) To build the capacity to collect accurate and timely data and to build interactive dashboards to display that data;

(g) To turn the reviews into continuous processes to assess the implementation of the Goals and to incorporate other aspects, such as governance;

(h) To use the reviews to link national development plans with the country programmes of the United Nations and other partners and to optimize service delivery;

(i) To use the review process to mobilize support from donors and domestic resources in order to finance the achievement of the Goals.

E. Plenary round-table panels on national and subnational actions and reviews to build forward better and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa: voluntary subnational reviews and peer learning to bolster local action [agenda item 6 (b)]

19. Following the discussion during the plenary round-table panel, the Forum:

(a) Requested member States:

(i) To scale up efforts to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 to foster ownership at all levels of society;

(ii) To institutionalize national-subnational partnerships and multi-stakeholder dialogue in voluntary subnational reviews;

(iii) To strengthen institutional mechanisms to engage local governments in regional and global agendas and to take note of the recommendations of the Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments established by the Secretary-General as part of Our Common Agenda;

(iv) To engage all stakeholders, in particular women and young people, at all stages of voluntary local reviews to promote ownership and delivery of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(v) To build the capacity of subnational governments, including in relation to the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063, voluntary local reviews and their finances;

(vi) To strengthen disaggregated data on the Sustainable Development Goals at the subnational level to facilitate local reviews and targeted interventions and investment to accelerate progress;

(vii) To plan and manage urbanization and human settlements sustainably, as part of the New Urban Agenda, and leverage the momentum of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;

(viii) To strengthen engagement at the high-level political forum on sustainable development and stress the essential importance of urban and human settlements and voluntary local reviews for the overall implementation of the New Urban Agenda;

(ix) To place housing and basic services at the core of the implementation of global and regional commitments and to mobilize the power of cities to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement;

(b) Requested the United Nations system to disseminate its regional guidelines for voluntary local reviews widely, promote their uptake by subnational authorities and support the authorities in conducting such reviews to facilitate harmonized reporting across all localities and linkages to voluntary national reviews.

F. Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made and peer-learning on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum: parallel meeting on the sub-theme of quality education [agenda item 7 (a)]

20. Following the discussion during the parallel meeting, the Forum urged member States:

(a) To make education more inclusive and improve the quality of education, including early childhood education, focusing on learning outcomes;

(b) To align training programmes with labour market requirements, including through public-private partnerships;

(c) To integrate a labour-management information system into teaching to improve the formulation of education policies;

(d) To leverage digital transformation to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4.

G. Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made and peer-learning on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum: parallel meeting on the sub-theme of gender equality [agenda item 7 (b)]

21. Following the discussion during the parallel meeting, the Forum urged member States:

(a) To leverage political will to strengthen institutional arrangements at all levels to implement commitments on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(b) To align gender-responsive policies and programmes with Sustainable Development Goal 5 and aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063;

(c) To ensure policy coherence and allocate adequate and sustainable financing to gender-responsive climate adaptation measures;

(d) To ensure the effective involvement of women in decision-making on climate change at the local, national and international levels;

(e) To use gender-disaggregated data, statistics and analysis to support the gender-responsive implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including by strengthening national statistical offices in that regard;

(f) To strengthen partnerships that are broad-based, inclusive and coordinated and that are key drivers of sustainable development and the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, which will require the strategic engagement of State and non-State actors and development partners;

(g) To continue prioritizing gender as a cross-cutting consideration in implementing and monitoring the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

H. Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made and peer-learning on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum: parallel meeting on the sub-theme of life below water [agenda item 7 (c)]

22. Following the discussion during the parallel meeting, the Forum urged member States and development partners:

(a) To build capacity to mobilize sustainable finance, including through mechanisms such as debt-for-nature swaps and the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, to support a sustainable and inclusive blue economy;

(b) To strengthen partnerships to adopt and implement the Great Blue Wall initiative to restore and protect coastal and marine areas;

(c) To push for developed countries at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to honour their commitment to provide \$100 billion in climate finance annually and increase significantly the share of that amount that is allocated to coastal adaptation, protection and resilience plans;

(d) To increase investment in marine data, science, technologies and youth entrepreneurship.

I. Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made and peer-learning on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum: parallel meeting on the sub-theme on life on land [agenda item 7 (d)]

23. Following the discussion during the parallel meeting, the Forum:
- (a) Urged member States:
 - (i) To strengthen public-private partnerships and coordination and implement effectively and sustainably policies, national plans and legislative frameworks to manage land, forests and biodiversity at scale;
 - (ii) To strengthen national One Health approaches to attain optimal health for people, animals and ecosystems in order to contain future pandemics better;
 - (iii) To empower women, young people, Indigenous Peoples and local communities by strengthening and enforcing resource tenure rights and enhancing access to finance to promote inclusive wealth creation, to manage forests and biodiversity sustainably and to respond to natural resource-based conflicts and disputes;
 - (iv) To strengthen research, development and innovation and to improve the integration of environmental data and statistics into national statistical systems;
 - (b) Urged member States and the private sector to increase investment to combat land degradation and enhance the productivity and sustainability of land, forests and biodiversity for inclusive green growth;
 - (c) Urged member States and partners:
 - (i) To strengthen and scale up the valuation of natural capital and to mainstream biodiversity, nature-based solutions, climate-friendly agriculture and disaster-risk reduction in voluntary national reviews and development plans and budgets;
 - (ii) To strengthen their capacity to mobilize resources through innovative financing mechanisms, such as green and blue bonds, debt-for-nature swaps and the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, in order to invest in sustainable land and forest management and biodiversity conservation;
 - (d) Urged member States, the private sector and partners to fully implement the declaration adopted at the seventh high-level meeting on disaster risk reduction, held in Nairobi in November 2021, to reduce disaster risk and build resilience, including through biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions;
 - (e) Urged ECA and the United Nations system to help to establish a truly developmental carbon market in Africa to create jobs, achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and manage land, forests, and biodiversity sustainably.

J. Parallel meetings for an in-depth review of progress made and peer-learning on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum: parallel meeting on the sub-theme of partnerships [agenda item 7 (e)]

24. Following the discussion during the parallel meeting, the Forum:

(a) Urged member States:

(i) To foster partnerships that are premised on peace, development and a shared vision of Africa that is aligned with Agenda 2063 and is anchored on institutional trust, ethics, and ownership;

(ii) To accelerate efforts to manage debt, remove intellectual property rights on essential assets, such as vaccines, and eliminate barriers to the free movement of people;

(iii) To reassess existing partnerships to ensure that the goals that they aim to achieve are common to all partners;

(iv) To invest in data-based evidence on the effectiveness of partnerships and evaluation of Government accountability;

(v) To analyze data and trends on migration to understand better its social, economic and environmental impacts;

(vi) To promote greater resource efficiency and efficacy in financing Sustainable Development Goals through appropriate and innovative tools and frameworks, including integrated national financial frameworks;

(vii) To strengthen domestic resource mobilization by accelerating digitization, closing loopholes in tax policy and administration, combating illicit financial flows and formulating governance and inclusivity policies aimed at enhancing accountability and transparency, tackling corruption, supporting participation and putting in place legal and judicial frameworks;

(b) Urged ECA, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission and their partners to support member States in building their capacity in early warning systems, disaster-risk reduction and the management of national and global health risks.

K. Plenary round-table panel on leveraging science, technology, innovation and digital transformation to build forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa [agenda item 8]

25. Following the discussion during the plenary round-table panel, the Forum urged member States and their partners:

(a) To recognize the role of science, technology and innovation as enablers of sustainable development, strengthen or establish national councils (or equivalent institutions) on science, technology and innovation that are chaired at the highest levels of government for continuous, time-bound and realistic science, technology and innovation dialogues, leadership, support, monitoring and evaluation;

(b) To enhance the effectiveness of science, technology and innovation policy formation and implementation through strengthened partnerships and engagement with academia, industry and government and a rigorous and verifiable monitoring and evaluation framework to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(c) To invest at least 1 per cent of GDP in research and development, thus attracting knowledge-intensive firms into research and development and ensuring that those firms remain competitive and innovative;

(d) To strengthen education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and attract young people to those fields to raise significantly the number of young scientists, researchers and engineers who will drive innovation and creativity and contribute to science, technology and innovation policy formulation in Africa;

(e) To increase the involvement of women in science, technology and innovation to remove the gender barriers, stereotyping and discrimination that are transferred into artificial intelligence systems;

(f) To support research to understand and design measures to mitigate the impact of climate change and human activities on oceans and other water bodies, considering the importance of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and noting the economic benefits for member States of supporting the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy and the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy;

(g) To operationalize relevant international frameworks of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, notably the Recommendation on Open Science, the Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers and the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, to enhance efficiency, inclusivity, reliability, responsiveness and the human-rights approach in order to address societal challenges in Africa and to facilitate publications in Indigenous languages by researchers;

(h) To harness new forms of advanced materials, biosciences and intelligent systems to restore and improve land productivity, recognizing the importance of land and the numerous ecosystems in Africa.

L. Presentations and discussions on sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 [agenda item 9]

26. Following the presentations and discussions, the Forum urged:

(a) Development partners and the United Nations:

(i) To boost cooperation to enable African countries to increase vaccination rates considerably;

(ii) To advocate for all restrictions to be removed in order to allow equal access to vaccines in Africa by leveraging endogenous initiatives and solutions;

(b) Member States to implement budgetary policies that foster the green economy and mitigate the effects of climate change to ensure a sustainable, post-pandemic, socioeconomic recovery;

(c) The United Nations to organize the meeting in July 2022 of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in a hybrid format to ensure active African participation.

M. Presentations of commitments and actions to accelerate delivery of sustainable development [agenda item 10]

27. Following the presentations, the Forum urged:

(a) Member States:

- (i) To ensure widespread private sector participation to make the most of concerted efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (ii) To continue their efforts for the joint monitoring, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and the alignment of national development with the two agendas to ensure a unified planning process;
- (iii) To accelerate efforts to mobilize domestic resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063 and link them with existing projects that are financed through external sources;
- (iv) To support countries that are developing frameworks for the sustainable use of natural resources, considering the importance of natural capital in Africa;
- (v) To ensure equity and inclusion by involving young people and persons with disabilities in planning and implementing actions and initiatives to fulfil the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;
- (vi) To ensure that African issues are on the agenda at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to take the lead on innovation in climate finance, including through the development of African carbon markets and a global consensus on carbon pricing;

(b) All stakeholders to share ideas and information on transformative initiatives and accelerators using purpose-specific platforms.

N. Summary of the Kigali Declaration on building forward better from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerating delivery of sustainable development in Africa

28. Participants in the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development thanked the host country, Rwanda, and President Kagame, for inclusively hosting the Forum and providing an enabling environment for fruitful deliberations.

29. Participants noted that Africa was generally lagging in its efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. They pointed to three major challenges undermining progress, including a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the adverse effects. They also highlighted inadequate financing as an overarching issue undermining Africa's ability to address the abovementioned challenges.

30. To address the health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, participants called upon developed countries to facilitate equitable access to vaccines, including by lifting intellectual property restrictions on vaccines, transferring related technologies to Africa and supporting African countries in vaccine manufacturing and distribution.

31. To accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in Africa, participants highlighted the centrality of respecting human rights and leaving no one behind, promoting gender equality and empowering women, ensuring peace and security, and ensuring effective monitoring of progress, including by strengthening national statistical systems. Furthermore, they stressed the importance of delivering digital transformation, investing in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, and guaranteeing at least 12 years of free education for every child. They highlighted the crucial need to use the Africa Continental Free Trade Area to promote regional integration and develop regional value chains, especially for battery and electric vehicle materials, and to ensure sustainable growth through green and blue economy initiatives.

32. To raise the necessary financial resources to achieve sustainable development and address climate change, participants called upon developed countries to honour their \$100 billion annual climate finance commitment and to reform the global financial architecture so as to respond better to the needs of developing countries. They also urged African countries to strengthen domestic resource mobilization, in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and leverage innovative financing mechanisms, such as green and blue bonds, debt swaps for biodiversity and sustainable development, the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility, and carbon markets. Participants called for an ambitious global carbon price and for building the capacity of the countries of the Congo basin to mobilize resources through the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin.

33. In conclusion, participants called upon all countries to implement the key messages adopted at the eighth session of the Forum. They also requested Rwanda to present those messages on behalf of Africa to the 2022 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant platforms to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.