

AGENDA 2063



2063
ARISE!
THE AFRICA WE WANT



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Shaune van Wyk

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"We all want a United Africa, United not only in our concept of what unity connotes, but united in our common desire to move forward together in dealing with all the problems that can best be solved only on a continental basis." Kwame Nkrumah



Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission, addressing a press conference after the launch of the African Agenda 2063



AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Agenda 2063: an e-mail from the future

Presentation by Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission, to the Retreat of Foreign Ministers held at Bahir Dar, Ethiopia on 24 – 26 January 2014.

Date: 24 January 2063
To: Kwame@iamafrican.com
From: Nkosazana@cas.gov
Subject: African Unity

My dear friend Kwame,

Greetings to the family and friends, and good health and best wishes for 2063.

I write to you from the beautiful Ethiopian city of Bahir Dar, located on Lake Tana, as we finalize preparations for the Centenary celebrations of the Organisation of African Unity, which became the African Union in 2002 and laid the foundations for what is now our Confederation of African States (CAS).

Yes, who would have thought that the dream of Kwame Nkrumah and his generations, when they called in 1963 on Africans to unite or perish, would one day become a reality. And what a grand reality.





At the beginning of the twenty first century, we used to get irritated with foreigners when they treated Africa as one country: as if we were not a continent of over a billion people and 55 sovereign states! But, the advancing global trend towards regional blocks, reminded us that integration and unity is the only way for Africa to leverage its competitive advantage.



Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the AU Commission, addressing the Ministerial Meeting preceeding the 22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia





In fact, if Africa was one country in 2006, we would have been the 10th largest economy in the world! However, instead of acting as one, with virtually every resource in the world (land, oceans, minerals, energy) and over a billion people, we acted as fifty-five small and fragmented individual countries. The bigger countries that should have been the locomotives of African integration, failed to play their role at that time, and that is part of the reasons it took us so long. We did not realize our power, but instead relied on donors, that we euphemistically called partners.

That was the case in 2013, but reality finally dawned and we had long debates about the form that our unity should take: confederation, a united states, a federation or a union.

As you can see, my friend, those debates are over and the Confederation of African States is now twelve years old, launched in 2051. What was interesting was the role played by successive generations of African youth. Already in 2013 during the Golden Jubilee celebrations, it was the youth that loudly questioned the slow progress towards integration. They formed African Union Clubs in schools and universities across the continent, and linked with each other on social media. We thus saw the grand push for integration, for the free movement of people, for harmonization of education and professional qualifications, with the Pan African University and indeed the university sector and intelligentsia playing an instrumental role.

We were a youthful continent at the start of the 21st century, but as our youth bulge grew, young men and women became even more active, creative, impatient and assertive, often telling us oldies that they are the future, and that they (together with women) form the largest part of the electorates in all our countries!

Of course this was but one of the drivers towards unity. The accelerated implementation of the Abuja Treaty and the creation of the African Economic Community by 2034 saw economic integration moved to unexpected levels.

Economic integration, coupled with infrastructure development, saw intra-Africa trade mushrooming, from less than 12% in 2013 to approaching 50% by 2045. This integration was further consolidated with the growth of commodity exchanges and continental commercial giants. Starting with the African pharmaceutical company, Pan African companies now not only dominate our domestic market of over two billion people, but they have overtaken multi-nationals from the rest of the world in their own markets.

Even more significant than this, was the growth of regional manufacturing hubs, around the beneficiation of our minerals and natural resources, such as in the Eastern Congo, north-eastern Angola and Zambia's copper belt and at major Silicon valleys in Kigali, Alexandria, Brazzaville, Maseru, Lagos and Mombasa, to mention but a few such hubs.





My friend, Africa has indeed transformed herself from an exporter of raw materials with a declining manufacturing sector in 2013, to become a major food exporter, a global manufacturing hub, a knowledge centre, beneficiating our natural resources and agricultural products as drivers to industrialization.

Pan African companies, from mining to finance, food and beverages, hospitality and tourism, pharmaceuticals, fashion, fisheries and ICT are driving integration, and are amongst the global leaders in their sectors. We are now the third largest economy in the world. As the Foreign Minister's retreat in Bahir Dar in January 2014 emphasised, we did this by finding the balance between market forces and strong and accountable developmental states and RECS to drive infrastructure, the provision of social services, industrialization and economic integration.

Let me recall what our mutual friend recently wrote:

The (African) agrarian revolution had small beginnings. Successful business persons (and local governments) with roots in the rural areas started massive irrigation schemes to harness the waters of the continent's huge river systems. The pan-African river projects – on the Congo, the Nile, Niger, Gambia, Zambezi, Kunene, Limpopo and many others – financed by PPPs that involved African and BRICS investors, as well as the African Diaspora, released the continent's untapped agricultural potential.

By the intelligent application of centuries-old indigenous knowledge, acquired and conserved by African women who have tended crops in all seasons, within the first few years bumper harvests were being reported. Agronomists consulted women about the qualities of various grains – which ones survived low rainfalls and which thrived in wet weather; what pests threatened crops and how could they be combated without undermining delicate ecological systems.

The social impact of the agrarian revolution was perhaps the most enduring change it brought about. The status of women, the tillers of the soil by tradition, rose exponentially. The girl child, condemned to a future in the kitchen or the fields in our not too distant past, now has an equal chance of acquiring a modern education (and owning a farm or an agribusiness). African mothers today have access to tractors and irrigation systems that can be easily assembled.

The producers' cooperatives, (agribusinesses) and marketing boards these women established help move their produce and became the giant food companies we see today.

We refused to bear the brunt of climate change and aggressively moved to promote the Green economy and to claim the Blue economy as ours. We lit up Africa, the formerly dark continent, using hydro, solar, wind, geothermal energy, in addition to fossil fuels.



And, whilst I'm on the Blue economy, the decision to form Africa-wide shipping companies, and encourage mining houses to ship their goods in vessels flying under African flags, meant a major growth spurt. Of course the decision taken in Dakar to form an African Naval Command to provide for the collective security of our long coastlines, certainly also helped.

Let me quote from our mutual friend again:

Africa's river system, lakes and coast lines abound with tons of fish. With funding from the different states and the Diaspora, young entrepreneurs discovered... that the mouths of virtually all the rivers along the east coast are rich in a species of eel considered a delicacy across the continent and the world.

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa, Ms Nkoana-Mashabane during the AU Ministerial Meeting preceeding the 22nd Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 31 July 2014





Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Republic of South Africa, Ms Nkoana-Mashabane during addressing the Opening of the 7th Ordinary Session of the Pan African Parliament. 17 April 2007



Clever marketing also created a growing market for Nile perch, a species whose uncontrolled proliferation had at one time threatened the survival of others in Lake Victoria and the Nile.

Today Namibia and Angola exploit the Benguela current, teaming with marine life, through the joint ventures funded by sovereign funds and the African Development Bank.

On the east coast, former island states of Seychelles, Comoros, Madagascar and Mauritius are leading lights of the Blue economy and their universities and research institutes attract marine scientists and students from all over the world.

Dear friend, you reminded me in your last e-mail how some magazine once called us 'The hopeless continent', citing conflicts, hunger and malnutrition, disease and poverty as if it was a permanent African condition. Few believed that our pledge in the 50th Anniversary Declaration to silence the guns by 2020 was possible. Because of our firsthand experience of the devastation of conflicts, we tackled the root causes, including diversity, inclusion and the management of our resources.

If I have to single out one issue that made peace happened, it was our commitment to invest in our people, especially the empowerment of young people and women. By 2013 we said Africa needed a skills revolution and that we must change our education systems to produce young people that are innovative and entrepreneurial and with strong Pan African values.

From early childhood education, to primary, secondary, technical, vocational and higher education – we experienced a true renaissance, through the investments we made, as governments and the private sector in education and in technology, science, research and innovation.

Coupled with our concerted campaigns to eradicate the major diseases, to provide access to health services, good nutrition, energy and shelter, our people indeed became and are our most important resource. Can you believe it my friend, even the dreaded malaria is a thing of the past.

Of course this shift could not happen without Africa taking charge of its transformation, including the financing of our development. As one esteemed Foreign minister said in 2014: Africa is rich, but Africans are poor.

With concerted political determination and solidarity, and sometimes one step back and two steps forward, we made financing our development and taking charge of our resources a priority, starting with financing the African Union, our democratic elections and our peacekeeping missions.





The Golden Jubilee celebrations were the start of a major paradigm shift, about taking charge of our narrative.

Agenda 2063, its implementation and the milestones it set, was part of what brought about this shift. We developed Agenda 2063 to galvanize and unite in action all Africans and the Diaspora around the common vision of a peaceful, integrated and prosperous Africa. As an overarching framework, Agenda 2063 provided internal coherence to our various sectoral frameworks and plans adopted under the OAU and AU. It linked and coordinated our many national and regional frameworks into a common continental transformation drive.

Planning fifty years ahead, allowed us to dream, think creatively, and sometimes crazy as one of the Ministers who hosted the 2014 Ministerial Retreat said, to see us leapfrog beyond the immediate challenges. Anchored in Pan Africanism and the African renaissance, Agenda 2063 promoted the values of solidarity, self-belief, non-sexism, self-reliance and celebration of our diversity.



President Jacob Zuma is welcomed by Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ms Nkoana-Mashabane on his arrival in Malabo for a Mid-Term Summit of the African Union, Equatorial Guinea during the Organisation of African Unity Summit meeting



President Jacob Zuma and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ms Nkoana-Mashabane at the Mid-Term Summit of the African Union, Equatorial Guinea during the Organisation of African Unity Summit meeting





Mr Alfred Nzo, former Minister of The Department of Foreign Affairs, during a Summit meeting of the Organisation of African Unity



The African Union (AU) was established on 26 May 2001 in Addis Ababa and launched on 9 July 2002 in South Africa to replace the Organisation of African Unity. Supporters holding posters of Heads of State during celebrations

As our societies developed, as our working and middle classes grew, as women took their rightful place in our societies, our recreational, heritage and leisure industries grew: arts and culture, literature, media, languages, music and film. WEB du Bois grand project of Encyclopedia Africana finally saw the light and Kinshasha is now the fashion capital of the world.

From the onset, the Diaspora in the traditions of Pan Africanism, played its part, through investments, returning to the continent with their skills and contributing not only to their place of origin, but where the opportunities and needs were found.

Let me conclude this e-mail, with some family news. The twins, after completing their space studies at Bahir Dar university, decided to take the month before they start work at the African Space Agency to travel the continent. My old friend, in our days, trying to do that in one month would have been impossible!

But, the African Express Rail now connects all the capitals of our former states, and indeed they will be able to crisscross and see the beauty, culture and diversity of this cradle of humankind. The marvel of the African Express Rail is that it is not only a high speed-train, with adjacent



highways, but also contains pipelines for gas, oil and water, as well as ICT broadband cables: African ownership, integrated planning and execution at its best!

The continental rail and road network that now crisscross Africa, along with our vibrant airlines, our spectacular landscapes and seductive sunsets, the cultural vibes of our cities, make tourism one of our largest economic sectors.

Our eldest daughter, the linguist, still lectures in KiSwahili in Cabo Verde, at the headquarters of the Pan African Virtual University. KiSwahili is now a major African working language, and a global language taught at most faculties across the world. Our grandchildren still find it very funny how we used to struggle at AU meetings with English, French and Portuguese interpretations, how we used to fight the English version not in line with the French or Arabic. Now we have a lingua franca, and multi-lingualism is the order of the day.

Remember how we used to complain about our voice not being heard in trade negotiations and the Security Council, how disorganized, sometimes divided and nationalistic we used to be in those forums, how we used to be summoned by various countries to their capitals to discuss their policies on Africa?

How things have changed. The Confederation last year celebrated twenty years since we took our seat as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and we are a major force for global stability, peace, human rights, progress, tolerance and justice.

My dear friend, I hope to see you next month in Haiti, for the second round of unity talks between the Confederation of African States and the Caribbean states. This is a logical step, since Pan Africanism had its roots amongst those early generations, as a movement of Africans from the mother continent and the Diaspora for liberation, self-determination and our common progress.

I end this e-mail, and look forward to seeing you in February. I will bring along some of the chocolates from Accra that you so love, which our children can now afford.

Till we meet again,
Nkosazana.



MOROCCO
King Hassan II
March 6, 1958

GHANA
Dr. Kwame Nkrumah
March 6, 1957

ETHIOPIA
Haile Selassie
March 28 & C.

LIBERIA
Dr. William V.S. Tubman
July 26, 1947

EGYPT
Gamal Abdel Nasser
1922

LIBYA
King Idris El-Senoussi
December 24, 1951

MALI
Modibo Keita
June 20, 1960

SENEGAL
Leopold Sedar Senghor
June 20, 1960

MADAGASCAR
Philbert Tsiranana
June 26, 1960

SUDAN
Sayad Ahmed Mahgoub
January 1, 1956

TUNISIA
Habib Bourguiba
March 20, 1956

DR CONGO
Joseph Kasavubu
June 30, 1960

CAMEROUN
Ahmadu Ahidjo
January 1, 1960

GUINEA
Sekou Toure
October 2, 1958

FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU)



The Voices of the African People

THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA AND HER DIASPORA, united in diversity, young and old, men and women, from all walks of life, deeply conscious of history, express profound appreciation to the successive generations of Pan Africanists and the founders of the Organisation of African Unity for having bequeathed an Africa free from slavery, colonialism and apartheid.



The Official Opening of the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU), the Plenary Hall, AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 15 July 2012



Echo the Pan African call that Africa must unite. Present generations are confident that the destiny of Africa is in their hands, and that we must act now to shape the future we want. Fifty years after the first thirty-three (33) independent African states gathered in Addis Ababa to form the Organization of African Unity, we are looking ahead towards the next fifty years.

We reviewed past plans and commitments, and rededicated ourselves to the enduring Pan African vision of ***“an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.”***

AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS FOR 2063

Our converging voices paint a picture of what we desire for ourselves, for future generations and the continent.

The aspirations reflect our desire for shared prosperity and well-being, for unity and integration, for a continent of free citizens and expanded horizons, where the full potential of women and youth are realized, and with freedom from fear, disease and want.

We envisage an Africa of strong identity, culture and shared values, and a strong and influential partner on the global stage making its contribution to peace, human progress and welfare. In short a different and better Africa.

*“an integrated,
prosperous and
peaceful Africa,
driven by its
own citizens and
representing a
dynamic force in
the global arena.”*



We are confident that Africa has the potential and capability to converge and catch up with other regions of the world and thus commit to act together towards achieving the following aspirations:



ASPIRATION 1

A PROSPEROUS AFRICA BASED ON INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We are determined to eradicate poverty in one generation through strategies of inclusive growth, job creation, increasing agricultural production; investments in science, technology, research and innovation; gender equality, youth empowerment and the provision of basic services including health, nutrition, education, shelter, water and sanitation.

We aspire that by 2063, Africa will be a continent of shared prosperity, which has the means and resources to drive its own development, and where:

- African people have a high standard of living, and quality of life, sound health and well-being;
- Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation for a knowledge society;
- Cities and other settlements are hubs of cultural and economic activities, with modernized infrastructure, and people have access to all the basic necessities of life including shelter, water, sanitation, energy, public and ICT;



- Economies structurally transformed to create shared growth and decent jobs for all, with modern agriculture for increased production, productivity and value addition contribute to farmer and national prosperity;
- The continent while attaining prosperity maintains healthy ecosystems and preserves the African and global environment.

By 2063, African countries will be amongst the best performers in global quality of life measures. Africa's collective GDP will be proportionate to her share of the world's population and natural resource endowments.



ASPIRATION 2

AN INTEGRATED CONTINENT, POLITICALLY UNITED BASED ON THE IDEALS OF PAN AFRICANISM

Since 1963, the quest for Unity in Africa has been inspired by the spirit of Pan Africanism, focusing on liberation, political and economic independence, and development based on self-reliance of African people, with democratic and people-centred governance fundamental to facilitating continental unity.

We aspire that by 2063, Africa will:

- Be a United States of Africa (federal or confederate);
- Have world class infrastructure across the continent; and
- Have dynamic and fruitful links with her Diaspora.





A turning point of the Women's Struggle in South Africa – The 1956 Women's March, Pretoria, 9 August





Africa will be a sovereign, independent, confident and self-reliant continent - a united, independent and strong Africa that realizes full economic and political integration.

Africa will witness the rekindling of African solidarity and unity of purpose that underpinned the struggle for emancipation from slavery, colonialism, apartheid and economic subjugation.

By 2020 all remnants of colonialism would have ended and all African territories under occupation fully liberated and all kinds of oppression including gender, racial and other forms of discrimination ended.

The political unity of Africa will be the culmination of the integration process, including the free movement of people, the establishment of continental institutions, full economic integration and consensus on the form of the continental government and institutions by 2030.

By 2063 the necessary infrastructure (quality and size) will be fully in place to support Africa's accelerated integration and growth, technological transformation, trade and development, including:

- high-speed railway networks,
- roads,
- shipping lines,
- sea and air transport, as well as,
- well-developed ICT and digital economy.

A Pan African High Speed Rail network will connect all the major cities/capitals of the continent, with adjacent highways and pipelines for gas, oil, water, as well as ICT Broadband cables.



The world-class infrastructure accompanied by trade facilitation will see intra-African trade mushrooming from less than 12% in 2013 to approaching 50% by 2045 and African share of global trade from 2% to 12%. This will in turn spur the growth of Pan African companies of global reach in all sectors.



ASPIRATION 3

AN AFRICA OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, DEMOCRACY, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

We aspire that by 2063, Africa will:

- Be a continent where democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, gender equality, justice and the rule of law are entrenched; and
- Have capable institutions and transformative leadership in place at all levels.

By 2063, Africa will have undergone a deepening of the culture of good governance, democratic values, gender equality, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law.

The continent's population will enjoy affordable and timely access to independent courts and judiciary that dispense and deliver justice without fear or favour. Corruption and impunity will be a thing of the past.

Africa will be a continent where the institutions are at the service of its people, and citizens own and actively participate in social, economic and political development and management. A competent,





professional, rules and merit-based bureaucracy will serve the continent and deliver effective and efficient services. Institutions at all levels of government will be developmental, effective, democratic, and accountable. There will be transformation leadership in all fields (political, economic, religious, cultural, academic, youth and women) and at continental, regional, national and local levels.



ASPIRATION 4

A PEACEFUL AND SECURE AFRICA

The Africa of 2063 will be a ***Peaceful and Secure Continent***, with harmony among communities at the lowest level. The management of our diversity will be a source of wealth, of social transformation and accelerated economic growth rather than a source of conflict.

We aspire that by 2063, Africa will have:

- An entrenched culture of human rights, democracy, gender equality, inclusion and peace;
- Prosperity, security and safety for all citizens; and
- Mechanisms to promote and defend the continent's collective security and interests.

A prosperous, integrated and united Africa, and an Africa based on good governance, democracy, social inclusion and respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law are the necessary pre-conditions for a peaceful and conflict-free continent.





By 2020 all guns will be silent. Mechanisms for peaceful resolution of conflicts will be in place at all levels and a culture of peace and tolerance nurtured in Africa's children and youth through peace education.

The continent will witness improved human security with sharp reductions in per capita violent crimes and with safe and peaceful spaces for individuals, families and communities. Africa shall be free from armed conflict and gender-based violence, it will be drugs-free, with no human trafficking and where organized crime and other forms of criminal networks, such as the arms trade and piracy are ended.

By 2063, Africa will have the capacity to secure peace and protect its citizens and interests, through a common defense, foreign and security policy.



ASPIRATION 5

AN AFRICA WITH A STRONG CULTURAL IDENTITY, VALUES AND ETHICS

By 2063 Pan Africanism and the common history, destiny, identity and consciousness of African people's and her diaspora's will be entrenched.

We aspire that by 2063:

- Pan Africanism will be fully entrenched; and
- The African Renaissance has reached its peak.





Pan African ideals will be mainstreamed in all school curricular and Pan African cultural assets (heritage, folklore, languages, film, music, theater, literature, etc.) will be enhanced to ensure that African creative arts and industries contribute significantly to GDP and in World Culture. African languages will be the basis for administration and integration. African values of family, community, hard work, merit, mutual respect and social cohesion will be firmly entrenched.

Africa will be a continent where women and youth play an important role, as drivers of change. Mechanisms will be in place for inter-generational dialogue to ensure that Africa is a continent that adapts to social and cultural change.



ASPIRATION 6

AN AFRICA WHERE DEVELOPMENT IS PEOPLE-DRIVEN, RELYING PARTICULARLY ON THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN AND YOUTH

The Africa of 2063 will be a continent that has equal participation, opportunity and access for all segments of the continent's population to development outcomes and social and political discourse regardless of gender, political affiliation, religion, ethnic affiliation, locality, age or other factors.

We aspire that by 2063, Africa:

- Is People-centred and caring;
- Has full gender equality in all spheres of life;
- Has engaged and empowered youth.





The African woman will be fully empowered in all spheres, with equal social, political and economic rights, including the rights to own and inherit property, sign a contract, register and manage a business. Rural women will have access to productive assets, including land, credit, inputs and financial services.

All forms of violence and discrimination (social, economic, political) against women and girls will be eliminated and they will fully enjoy all their human rights.

All harmful social practices will be ended and barriers to quality health and education for women and girls eliminated.

Africa of 2063 will have full gender parity, with women occupying at least 50% of elected public offices at all levels and half of managerial positions in the public and the private sector. The economic and political glass ceiling that restricted women's progress would have been shattered.

By 2063, African children and youth shall be empowered with full implementation of the African Charter on the Rights of the Child. Youth unemployment will be eliminated, and Africa's youth guaranteed full access to education and training, health services, jobs, recreational and cultural activities as well as to financial means to allow them to realize their full potential.

Young African men and women will be progenitors of the African knowledge society and will contribute significantly to the economy. The creativity, energy and innovation of African youth will be the driving force behind the continent's political, social, cultural and economic transformation.





ASPIRATION 7

AFRICA AS A STRONG AND INFLUENTIAL GLOBAL PLAYER AND PARTNER

Africa will emerge as a strong, resilient, peaceful and influential global player and partner with a significant role in world affairs. We affirm the importance of African unity and solidarity in the face of continued external interference including attempts to divide the continent and undue pressures and sanctions on some countries.

We aspire that by 2063, Africa will be:

- A major social, political and economic force in the world, and with her rightful share of the global commons (space, terrestrial and oceanic);
- An active and equal participant in global affairs, multilateral institutions, a driver for peaceful co-existence, tolerance and a sustainable and just world;
- Fully capable and have the means to finance her development.

We are determined to position Africa in the world, by strengthening our common perspectives on partnerships that reflects the unity of the continent and its priorities and views on matters of global importance.





The Assembly of the African Union

We, Heads of State and Government of the African Union assembled in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea during the 23rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on 27 June 2013;

Having taken note of the aspirations and determination of the African people expressed above and reiterating our common interests expressed through these aspirations;

Re-affirm that Agenda 2063 builds on past achievements and challenges and takes into account the continental and global context and trends in which Africa is realizing its transformation, including:

- ***The durability of the Pan African vision and project***, which guided struggles of African people and their descendants against slavery, colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination; the commitment of the founders of the OAU to self-determination, integration, solidarity and unity; and which today forms the backdrop for Africa's renaissance, transformation and integration;
- ***An African turning point***, starting at the turn of the millenium with our renewed determination to end wars and conflicts, to build shared prosperity, to integrate, to build responsive and democratic governance and to end the continent's marginalization through the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the transformation of the OAU into the African Union. Thus Africa, over the last decade has experienced sustained levels of growth, greater peace and stability and positive movements on a number of human development indicators. Africa shall





sustain and consolidate this positive turnaround, drawing on the opportunities of demographics, natural resources, urbanization, technology and trade using it as a springboard to ensure its transformation and renaissance;

- ***Lessons from global developmental experiences***, the significant advances by countries of the South to lift huge sections of their populations out of poverty, improve incomes and catalyze economic and social transformation, and the global drive through the United Nations to find multi-lateral approaches to humanity's most pressing concerns including human security and peace; the eradication of poverty, hunger and disease; and climate change;
- ***The continuities and changes of the African development paradigm and dynamics***, reflected in post-independence state and nation-building, industrialization and modernization efforts, the fight against disease, ignorance and poverty; and the push for integration, as captured in the OAU Charter, the Monrovia Declaration, the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty and NEPAD; in sectoral policy frameworks, strategies and architectures including agriculture, peace and security, infrastructure, science and technology, governance, trade, industrialization, education, social policy, culture, sports and health and in normative frameworks around democracy, human and people's, children's and women's rights;
- ***People-centered development and gender equality***, which places the African people at the center of all continental efforts, to ensure their participation in the transformation of the continent, and to build caring and inclusive societies. It recognizes that no society can reach its full potential,





unless it empowers women and remove all obstacles to women's full participation in all areas of human endeavors; and unless it provides an enabling environment for its children and young people to flourish and reach their full potential;

- ***The ebbs and flows of the global context***, and in our times the modern information technology revolution, globalization, changes in technology, production, trade, knowledge and labour markets; the opportunities presented by global demographic trends, urbanization and the growing global middle and working classes in the South; the move towards multi-polarity with strong elements of uni-polarism remaining, global security and the impact of climate change. Humanity today has the capacities, technology and know-how to ensure a decent standard of living and human security for all inhabitants of our earth, and yet children continue to die of preventable diseases; hunger and malnutrition remain part of the human experience; and underdevelopment, fragility, marginalization and inequality between regions and countries and within countries persist;

Stress that Agenda 2063 is:

- Our endogenous plan of transformation that seeks to harness the continent's comparative advantages such as its people, history and cultures; its natural resources; its position and repositioning in the world to effect equitable and people-centred social and economic transformation and the eradication of poverty; to develop Africa's human capital; to build social assets, infrastructure and public goods; to empower women and youth; to promote lasting peace and security; to build effective developmental states and participatory and accountable institutions and governance;





- Africa's vision and roadmap for sequencing our sectoral and normative, national, regional and continental plans into a coherent whole;
- A call to action by Africans and people of African descent, as the primary agents of change and transformation;
- A commitment from national, regional and continental governments, leadership, institutions and citizens to act, coordinate, and cooperate for the realization of this vision;

Note that Agenda 2063 builds on the pledges made through the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration,

We are confident that our aspirations and the dream of an Africa that is integrated, peaceful and prosperous is achievable, provided that we construct this future based on actions taken now.



A Call to Action

We are deeply conscious that Africa in 2014 stands at a turning point and are determined to move towards a tipping point where change is irreversible and universal.

We hereby adopt Agenda 2063, as a collective vision and roadmap for the next fifty years and therefore commit to speed-up actions in the following areas:

- 1 **Eradicate poverty in a generation by 2025**, through concentrating all our efforts towards improving incomes, creating jobs and providing basic necessities of life.
- 2 **Skills revolution and science, technology and innovation:** expand universal access to quality early childhood, basic and higher education, consolidate gender parity in education, strengthen vocational education and universities, science, technology, research and innovation.
- 3 **Economic transformation and industrialisation through beneficiation of natural resources:**
 - Agriculture and food security
 - Commodities strategy
 - Industrialisation, manufacturing, beneficiation, and services
 - Blue and Green economy:
- 4 **Africa connected through worldclass infrastructure**, through a concerted push to finance and implement the major infrastructure projects in:



- **Transport:** connecting all African capitals and commercial centres through the Africa Integrated High Speed Train Initiative, the PIDA transport corridors; improved efficiency and connections of the African aviation sector and implement the Yamoussoukro Declaration, and strengthening the African port and shipping sector as regional and continental assets.
 - **Energy:** harnessing all African energy resources to ensure modern, efficient, reliable, cost effective and environmentally friendly energy to all African households, businesses, industries and institutions, through building the national and regional energy pools and grids, and PIDA energy projects.
 - **ICT:** a continent on equal footing with the rest of the world as an information society, an integrated e-economy where every government, business and citizen has access to reliable and affordable ICT services by increasing broadband penetration by 10% by 2018, broadband connectivity by 20 percentage points and providing access to ICT to children in schools and venture capital to young ICT entrepreneurs and innovators.
- 5 The establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area** by 2017, a programme to double intra-Africa trade by 2022, strengthen Africa's common voice and policy space in global trade negotiations and establish the financial institutions within agreed upon timeframes: African Investment Bank and Pan African Stock Exchange (2016), the African Monetary Fund (2018), and the African Central Bank (2028/34).



- 6 ***Young people as drivers of Africa's renaissance***, through investment in their health, education and access to technology, opportunities and capital, and concerted strategies to combat youth unemployment and underemployment.
- 7 ***Silence the guns by 2020***, to make peace a reality for all our people and by ending all wars, civil conflicts, human rights violations, humanitarian disasters and violent conflicts, and to prevent genocide. We pledge not to bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans by ending all wars in Africa by 2020.
- 8 ***Achieve Gender Parity by 2020 in public and private institutions***, and the removal of all forms of gender discrimination in the social, cultural, economic and political spheres.
- 9 ***An African Passport***, issued by Member states, capitalising on the global migration towards e-passports in 2015, and starting with abolishing visa requirements for all African citizens in all African countries.
- 10 ***Urgently and rapidly strengthen Africa's voice in global negotiations***, through pooled sovereignty, integration and the development of common African positions.

We commit to critical enablers:

The determination, participation and solidarity of Africa's peoples and leadership, and African self-reliance are critical enablers and preconditions for success. We therefore commit to:



- The mobilisation of African resources to finance and accelerate its transformation, peace, security, democratic governance and strengthen continental institutions and integration.
- Strengthen accountable leadership and developmental governance and institutions, through robust and transparent implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at all levels.
- Work to change attitudes and mindsets to strengthen Pan African values of self-reliance, solidarity, hard work and collective prosperity and building on African successes, experiences and best practices to forge the African model of transformation.
- Take charge of Africa's narrative and brand, to ensure that it reflects continental realities, aspirations and priorities and Africa's position in the world.
- Reaffirm our pledge in the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration to immediately align and integrate Agenda 2063 in our national and regional development plans.
- Strengthen and transform regional and continental institutions and the manner in which we do business, so as to effectively lead and drive the agenda for transformation and integration.
- Call upon the international community to respect Africa's vision and aspirations for herself and to align their partnerships appropriately.

Our Journey towards 2063 has started





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