ROLE OF COMESA IN CONSOLIDATING PEACE SECURITY, GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AGENDA 2063

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Member states of COMESA and state of integration

PRESENTATION CONTENT
a) Introduction of COMESA
b) Notable progress – last 12 month to support Continental Agenda and APSA/ drivers of progress/ challenges and lessons learnt
c) Areas of Agenda 2063 that require further work
d) Role of COMESA in supporting operationalisation of Agenda 2063
e) How can UN support COMESA implement Agenda 2063
Member states of COMESA and state of integration

- Secretariat is in Lusaka, Zambia
- 19 Member states, Burundi, Comoros, DRC, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Swaziland, Seychelles, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Total area 12.2 mill Km2; Population app. 400 million
- Combined GDP is over 345 billion (potentially one of the largest markets of the world)

STATE OF INTEGRATION

- 17 countries participating in FTA/- hence a fast-track to Continental FTA
- Customs union launched 2009
- Progress is made on all stages at the same time – elements of the different stages complementary and assist the integration process at any point in time
- COMESA-EAC and SADC also working towards a Tripartite FTA
NOTABLE PROGRESS MADE LAST 12 MONTHS

- COMESA has continued to be very active in all events related to the AU 2013 Agriculture theme – a leading REC in advancing the CAADP agenda
- **On Early Warning (COMWARN)** – significant progress has been made towards supporting the structural prevention of conflict with data driven theory informed analysis
- **On PCRD:** Have strengthened cross border mechanisms for enhanced stability at borders areas of the Great Lakes region
- Supported the consolidation of democracy through establishment of COMESA Electoral Management Bodies Forum and the observation of elections in Swaziland, Rwanda, Madagascar, Malawi and Egypt
- Supported Regional Maritime security by identification of capacity needs of FIUs in member states to reduce financial flows related to Piracy

COMWARN – COMESA Early Warning System

- Model anchored on “Peace and Prosperity Index” developed to primarily forecast on structural attributes that are associated with the escalation of violence and underdevelopment. (hence provide very early warning) - focus is on structural prevention rather than crisis intervention.
- Last 12 months: Structural Vulnerability Assessments and identification of drivers for all member states aimed at reducing their vulnerability
COMWARN OUTPUTS - illustrated

Common drivers (COMESA Average)
- School enrollment
- Live expectancy
- Corruption perception
- Age dependency (youth)
- Total health expenditure
- Female mortality
- HIV/Aid

The above is COMESA average and hence it does not mean very much

Stabilization of border areas
- Efforts to stabilize countries that have emerged from conflict started in 2006
- Method – use of trade as a mechanism of peace
- Target – Small scale cross border traders and border communities (Great Lakes region a pilot)
- Constructed Trade information Desk at various border points
- Capacity building targeted to small scale traders and border officials including the use of the simplified trade regime
- Record that Women traders assisted over 13,000 times and men over 6,000 times over the last one year
Traders served by TIDs last 12 months

13,570 incidents that women; and 6,370 incidents that men were served by TIDs

Last 12 months

Actions
- Build and Strengthening of border structures
- Identification of sites for construction of markets, warehouses, feeder roads, etc

Expected results – stabilise borders
- Increase opportunities for greater interaction across borders
- Empower border communities (women – 70-80% Traders)
- Reduce incentive to conflict by youth (easy recruits)

Linkages to Agenda 2063
- Aspiration 2 – harmony among communities
- Aspiration 6: focus on women/empowered and engaged youth
AREAS OF AGENDA STILL NEEDING STRENGTHENING

Africa is making good progress on aspirations

- **Good governance and democracy** (over 90% COMESA hold democratic elections regularly)
- **Peaceful and security continent** (reduction of long conflicts and increase in Africa-led missions and mediation)
- **Some on respect of human rights, justice** (establishing an African Court of Justice)
- **Beginning to be recognized as a global player**
AREAS OF AGENDA STILL NEEDING STRENGTHENING

Still need more work on ensuring:
- Prosperous Africa based inclusive growth and sustainable development,
- Political integration (however making good progress in economic integration)

On implementation
- Resources to implement the agenda generated within the continent
- Stronger coordination role by AU – implementation by RECs

Role of COMESA in supporting operationalisation of Agenda 2063 and Post 2015 Development agenda

- Incorporate outcomes of 2063 into GPS strategic plan 2015-2018 by breaking down the targets to smaller manageable 5-year goals
- Incorporating 2063 and Post 2015 indicators in projects documents and within the COMESA M&E framework
- Develop programmes with a focus to address relevant elements of the Agenda
- The use of the policy organs, workshops and meetings to advocate for its implementation
HOW UN SYSTEM CAN BETTER SUPPORT

- Support in the domestication of the two agendas
- Work with COMESA to mainstream agenda 2063 and post 2015 development agenda in strategic plan
- Assist/ work with COMESA to develop national early response cross-sectoral units (link early warning to early response)
- Assist COMESA to evaluate the impact of cross-border projects on conflict prevention and socio-economic aspects – (wealth generation, employment etc)

Thank you for your attention