

Briefing to the UN Members, New York, 1st October 2014

“The Role of Africa’s Regional Economic Communities in Consolidating Peace, Security, Governance and Development in the Context of Agenda 2063”

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Excellencies

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1. While commemorating the 50th AU Anniversary of the OAU/AU, the Africa Heads of State and Government issued a Solemn Declaration in which they identified 08 key areas for Africa’s development agenda:
 - i. Africa identity and renaissance
 - ii. Struggle against colonialism and the right to self determination of the people still under colonial rule;
 - iii. The Integration agenda;
 - iv. Agenda for social and economic development;
 - v. Agenda for peace and security;
 - vi. Democratic governance;
 - vii. Determining Africa’s destiny; and
 - viii. Africa’s place in the world.

2. These continue to inform the debate on Africa’s Agenda 2063. They call us to action towards attaining **Africa’s Vision** of “**an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena**”.

3. As we chart Africa’s trajectory for the next 50 years, at least five key critical success factors come into play:
 - i) First, effective multi-stakeholder, people participation in Agenda 2063; from inception, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
 - ii) Second, fostering Africa renaissance by nurturing integrationist mindsets;
 - iii) Third, adopting results-based approaches.
 - iv) Fourth, harnessing the full potential of Africa’s diversity for Africa’s development;
 - v) Fifth, communicating the right message to the people, timely and sustainably.

- The **Question is**; how are we positioning ourselves to make positive contribution to this Agenda for change?

- How do we address the political, socio-economic development challenges, including peace, security and governance, knowing that these are the prerequisites for any meaningful integration and development?
4. At the last briefing, we briefed the esteemed UN member countries on the East African Community Regional Strategy for Peace and Security and the various policy interventions – some under implementation, and others we were negotiating. Since then, with the additional support provided by partners, especially under the Africa Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) Framework, we have registered results in a number of areas, setting the stage for realising Africa Agenda 2063. We have:
 - i) operationalised the EAC Early Warning Centre;
 - ii) Established a Mediation Framework - the EAC Panel of Eminent Persons;
 - iii) Carried out security sector reforms through policy and program harmonization of practices in the Police and Correctional services sector;
 - iv) Rolled out measures aimed combating trafficking in Humans in all its aspects.
 - v) Embarked on implementing the East and Southern Africa- Indian Ocean Maritime Security Strategy, which feeds into the Africa Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050; and;
 - vi) We continue to consolidate the gains made in Small Arms and Light Weapons Control, through the AU-Regions Small Arms and Light Weapons Steering Committee. This is a good foundation for implementing the UN Arms Trade Treaty, UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and promoting security and stability.
 5. We are carrying out interventions for promoting good governance, implemented under 4 governance pillars. These pillars are the protection and promotion of human rights; strengthening electoral processes; promoting adherence to the rule of law and access to justice; and promoting accountable leadership with strong institutions of governance that provide checks and balances. We ensure alignment to the AU Governance Architecture
 6. To move forward Africa Agenda 2063, we recognize the imperative for effective engagement of civil society organizations, the private sector, youth and women. In that regard, in addition to the East African Business Council, we have established the EAC Dialogue Framework for CSOs, private and other interested parties. The EAC Youth Ambassadors platform is also facilitating realization of youth potentials, informed by the EAC Youth policy we adopted in 2012.
 7. To ensure cross regional exchange of experiences, promote good practices and enhance complementarity aligned to the continental vision, the EAC continues to nurture collaborative arrangements with other regional economic communities, as well as with organizations having security mandates. These include the Regional Centre on Small Arms

(RECSA), INTERPOL, the East and Southern Africa Anti Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG); and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)..

Challenges;

8. These initiatives have not been without challenges, especially those associated with:
 - i) Limited resources and technical expertise to implement envisaged initiatives;
 - ii) Those associated with harmonizing different socio-economic and political governance regimes on the continent and domesticating them at regional levels.
 - iii) Mobility bottlenecks; especially soft and hard transport infrastructure; and
 - iv) Differing mandates of RECs anchored in their founding legal instruments, implying variances in the way their integration priorities are set and programs implemented.

Going forward;

9. We need to prioritise and focus our energies, efforts and resources on:
 - i) fostering greater political will and translating the political commitments in the Solemn Declaration to action; mobilising the requisite resources; and promoting collective approaches to Peace and Security initiatives;
 - ii) targeted capacity development to respond to the rapidly evolving and the new, emerging security challenges;
 - iii) implementing flagship programs and projects that are fundamental to promoting regional and continental integration. In particular, the infrastructure and trade facilitation projects, like those under the Tripartite EAC-COMESA-SADC and the Tripartite + IGAD, which promote job creation and employment especially to the youth;
 - iv) facilitating free movement of the people, goods, capital and services. Our belief is that the gains realised in our 4 years of operationalising the EAC Common Market Protocol and lessons learnt should be the source of motivation for the move towards attaining the Continental Free Trade Area;
 - v) we also need to come up with an implementation plan for Africa's Agenda 2063. Africa will need to boldly delineate roles and responsibilities to facilitate attaining its Vision, including identifying the drivers;
 - vi) as we do this, we need to expedite adoption and resolute implementation of Good Governance to enable setting common regional standards and benchmarks.

10. Setting our Agenda 2063 is a way of determining our post-2015 Development Agenda. True that we have registered some success in our MDG targets, like universal primary education; gender parity at various levels of education; lowering HIV/Aids prevalence among the youth (15-24yr olds); increasing access to retro-virals; increasing women participation in the legislative structures. But much more remains to be done.

11. As RECs, we need to do more, especially in terms of:
- i) mainstreaming the Post-2015 Development Agenda into the agendas of CSOs, Parliaments, Municipalities/local governments, as we elaborate Agenda 2063;
 - ii) bringing together Member States to translate and mainstream Africa Agenda 2063 into national development agendas and regional work programmes, with concrete actions and deliverables;
 - iii) harnessing the full potentials of the CSOs, youth and women, whose potential remains untapped, as vanguards for Africa's Agenda 2063;
 - iv) strengthening partnerships and mobilising resources for the implementation of projects and programs; and the Monitoring and Evaluation of progress; and
 - v) nurturing sustainable ownership of Africa's vision by the private sector to become a more significant player in Domestic Resource Mobilisation;
12. As we do this, we certainly need the support of the UN and partners. This could come under different portfolios;
- a) there is need to support our interventions targeting institutional strengthening especially in the areas of socio-economic and political governance;
 - b) RECs require support to review their strategic plans to align them to Africa's Agenda 2063. This includes scenario planning on the projections for the next 50 years; stakeholder analysis; detailed program development; developing M&E Framework and the implementation plans. These require specialised competences and capacities which the UN and other partners' could offer;
 - c) we need support to enable us design long range interventions targeting the youth and women. The lessons learnt and successes from other regions need to be shared and replicated. The UN and partners have carried out many studies, have the comparative advantage on this, and could assist the RECs;
 - d) finally, we need to communicate the message of Africa's integration to the people to promote sustainable ownership of Africa's Agenda 2063.
- To that end, we need to develop a thorough, comprehensive communication strategy for Agenda 2063. Fortunately, the communication function for Africa's peace, security and development falls squarely within the mandate of UN OSAA, among others.

I THANK YOU
