





C. Development of Africa

STREET SCENE IN KIGALI
Rwanda

As I am a strong believer in African-led solutions to African problems, I made the solemn promise that the relationship between the United Nations and the African Union will be based on mutual respect, solidarity, complementarity and interdependence to deliver effectively for the African people. Our mutual goals and aspirations are not only about economic development, environmental protection and reduced conflict, but also about a fundamental commitment to social justice for all and leaving no one behind. These are also the guiding principles for our work and partnerships on the continent.

To complement the United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security accomplished in 2017, we signed the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the African Union Summit in January 2018. The goal of the new framework is to further accelerate the implementation of the sustainable development agenda in Africa, one of my highest priorities. It envisions stronger coordination between the two organizations to ensure that both Agendas are mainstreamed into national planning frameworks and contribute to people-centred and environmentally sustainable structural transformation in Africa. A harmonized and integrated approach to the implementation and



MINUSMA Quick Impact Project supports community radio in Gao, Mali.

UN Photo/Harandine Dioko, #758370, 14/02/2018

monitoring of the two Agendas will minimize duplication, optimize domestic resource mobilization and strengthen partnerships. It will thus help us to better serve the true beneficiaries of our efforts, the Africans themselves, enabling them to unleash their full social and economic potential.

To enhance our collective response in the Sahel region, for instance, an international high-level conference on the Sahel was held in February 2018 by the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union, which resulted in pledges of €414

million, complemented by a technical agreement and a robust compliance framework to address human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. Furthermore, the United Nations has developed a United Nations support plan for the Sahel to accelerate implementation of key programmes in support of national and regional priorities. The plan, which is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, provides for strategic support by the United Nations across the governance, peace, recovery and socioeconomic pillars.

Intra-African exports made up only 18 per cent of total exports in 2016,

The UN and AU relationship is based on mutual respect, solidarity and complementarity.

compared to 59 and 69 per cent for intra-Asia and intra-Europe exports, respectively. To address this issue, in March 2018, in Kigali, 44 African Heads of State and Government signed the framework to establish the African Continental Free Trade Area, a landmark initiative of the African Union. The Free Trade Area will cover a market of 1.2 billion people and a gross domestic product of \$2.5 trillion. By progressively eliminating tariffs on intra-African trade, it will contribute significantly to Africa's regional economic integration and structural transformation. Enhanced intra-continental trade will potentially generate cross-border entrepreneurial initiatives and decent jobs, help to formalize the informal sector and create opportunities for the growing

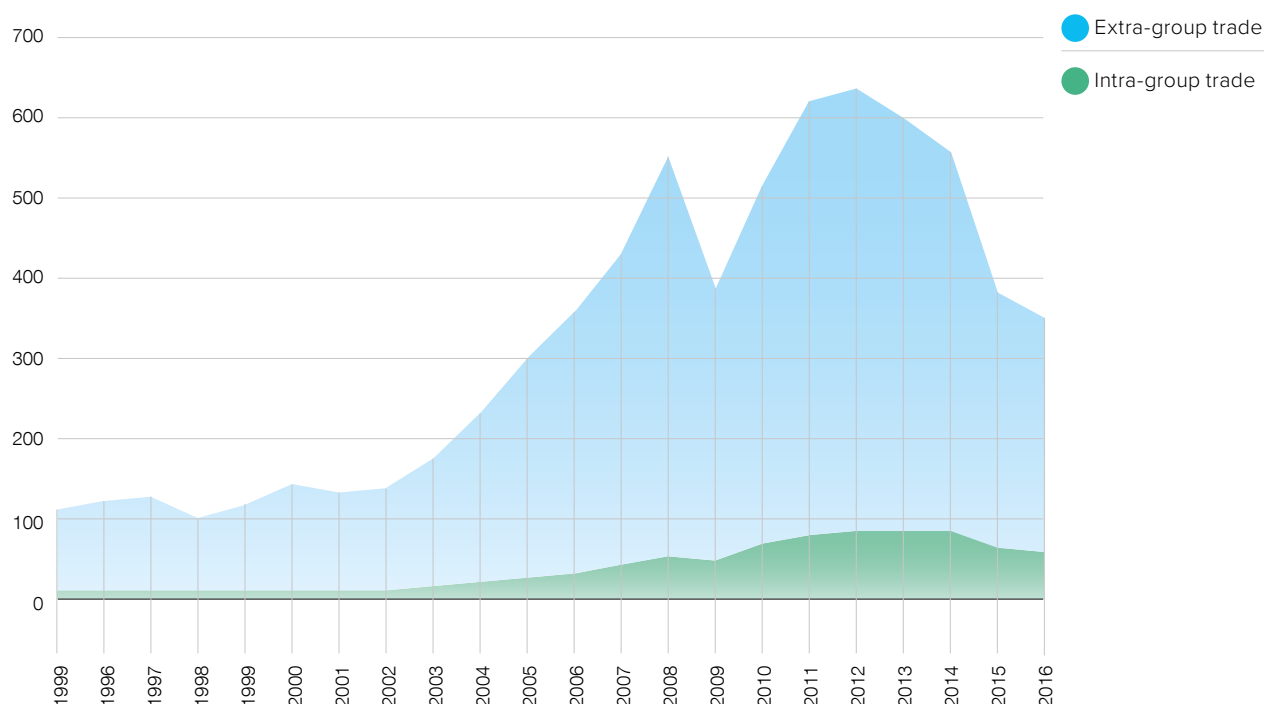
youth population, thus harnessing the continent's demographic dividend.

The United Nations has undertaken several activities in 2018 in a number of African countries (for example, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Comoros, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali and the United Republic of Tanzania) to provide integrated packages of support, including toolkits and software designed by the Economic Commission for Africa to align the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. The annual Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development met to review progress, promote learning by sharing experiences, good practices and lessons learned and build consensus on policy recommendations

to accelerate implementation of the development agenda.

Intra-African trade made up only 18 per cent of total African trade in 2016

Intra- and extra-group trade in Africa (US\$ billion)



Source: UNCTAD, UN

DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA: DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS

Changes in the global population affect the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; therefore the location and demographic characteristics of people need to be taken into account. Africa has the fastest growing population of all major regions and that is expected to continue for decades to come (see figure II). Supporting larger populations and improving their quality of life without bringing about negative environmental impacts or otherwise diminishing the quality of life of future generations

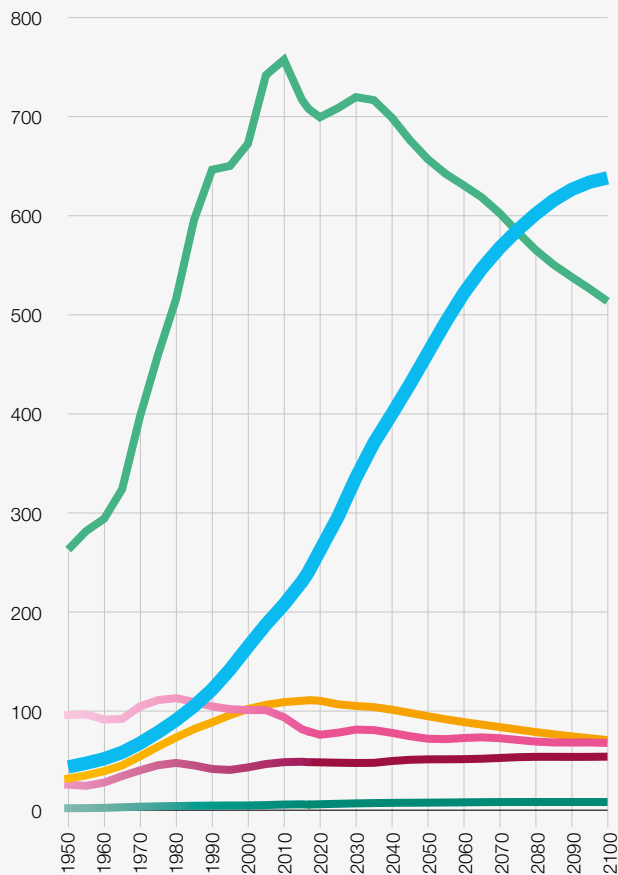
remains the central challenge of sustainable development.

Africa is the only region where the number of young people aged 15–24 years is projected to increase until mid-century (see figure III). The ability of countries to harness the demographic dividend depends critically on investments in education, health care and job opportunities needed for a productive integration of working-age women and men into the labour force. If human capital investment falls short or if

the labour market is unable to generate productive employment opportunities, the potential of the demographic dividend may be squandered. The consideration of these major changes in the size, characteristics and location of the human population should be part of data-driven planning for sustainable development.

Africa's youth is projected to increase strongly

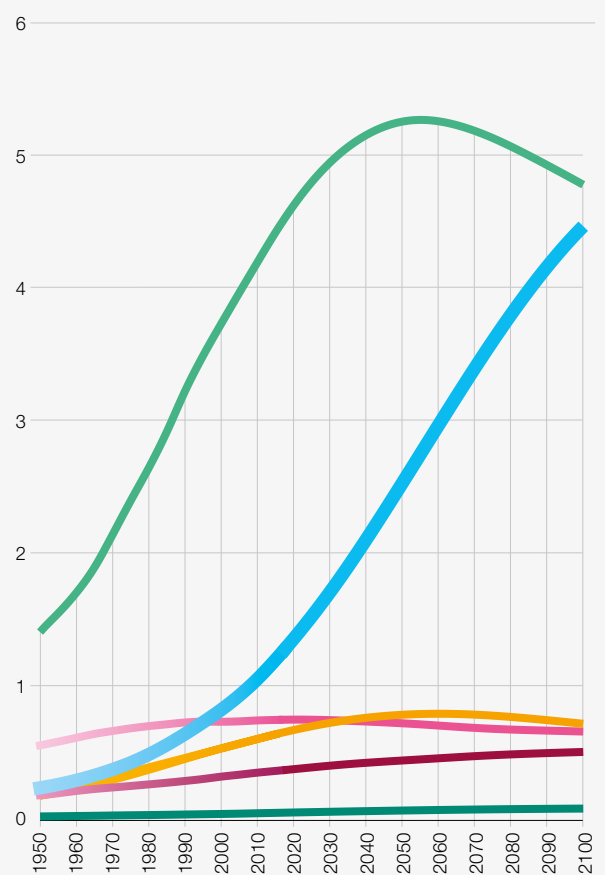
Youth aged 15-24, estimates and projections (millions)



Source: DESA, UN

Africa's population is growing fastest

World population estimates and projections (billions)



Source: DESA, UN

● Africa ● Asia ● Europe ● Latin America and the Caribbean ● Northern America ● Oceania



UN Photo/Tobin Jones #716500, 09/03/2017

Baby being weighed as severe drought threatens famine in Mogadishu, Somalia.