AFRICA WEEK 2016

Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusive Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Peace and Stability in Africa

10-14 OCTOBER 2016
UNHQ, NEW YORK
Africa Week is a well-established major global platform to discuss issues of great importance to the continent. It reflects on the people-centred approach that is espoused by the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN), as it prominently features the participation of not only the UN member states, but also of the civil society, academia, private sector and African Diaspora. The Week celebrates and showcases Africa’s continued advancements and achievements in social, economic, peace and security, governance, and environmental development. It also raises awareness on the current, new and emerging challenges facing the continent, with an aim to mobilize international support at the global level for Africa’s sustainable development priorities and its inclusive transformative agenda.

Africa Week 2016 marked the 7th consecutive year that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) has organized this Week, in close collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the Department of Public Information (DPI), the AU and its Permanent Observer Mission at the United Nations in New York, the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Agency, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

The Week took place in the context of the first year of implementation of both the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU’s structural transformation Agenda 2063, and it’s First Ten-Year Implementation Plan. The two agendas underscore the timeliness and importance of partnerships and synergies at all levels and across sectors for the realization of all aspirations, goals, priority actions and targets.

Against this background, the overarching theme was “Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusive Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Peace and Stability in Africa.” The Week consisted of five high-level events, which provided an excellent and timely opportunity to lay the foundation for greater synergy, coordination and complementarity amongst the many stakeholders supporting Africa’s transformative and sustainable development agenda.

Africa’s strategic partners (traditional, new and emerging) are at the core of the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the AU’s Agenda 2063. In this regard, both agendas underscore the importance of partnerships as key for their successful implementation; in particular, Agenda 2063 envisions the continent “as a strong, united, resilient and influential player and partner”. Similarly Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda emphasizes the critical need for partnerships.

These strategic partners continue to invest heavily in supporting a range of Africa’s aspirations and goals, including in peace and security, democracy, good governance, human rights, human development, agricultural development, infrastructure development, humanitarian assistance, and the promotion of resilient and quality health systems among others. The increasing engagements present significant opportunities for Africa’s realization of both its transformative agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Week highlighted some of Africa’s strategic partnerships, including partnerships that are well established, such as
the United States of America (USA), the European Union (EU) and Japan as well as partnerships with new and emerging partners such as China, India, Republic of Korea, and Turkey, who held summits in recent years to strengthen their relations with Africa. It was noted that international partnership has been playing a crucial role in Africa’s development including the North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

These included some of these transformative benefits as well as lessons learned and opportunities to further enhance the collaboration between Africa and its strategic partners. The discussions and debates focused on the implementation of both Agendas 2030 and 2063 as they build on the foundation laid by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), whilst addressing emerging challenges to Africa’s sustainable development. It was emphasised that realization of a people-centred vision of the 2030 and 2063, particularly the promise of ‘leaving no one behind’, Africa’s strategic partnerships must be aligned with Africa’s development priorities identified in Agenda 2063.

It was underlined that engagement with multi-stakeholder partnerships between governments and other stakeholders, including, the parliament, civil society, particularly women and youth associations, the private sector and academia, among others, are key for enhancing ownership, transparency and accountability, promoting investment and capacity building, and bringing about innovative solutions to meet development challenges.

Africa’s progress in the last decade in advancing human and socio-economic development as well as consolidating peace and security and governance was recognized. On the other hand, a number of challenges still remain including; the need to meet the large deficit in infrastructure financing, develop production capacities, achieve structural transformation through industrialization, end conflicts, sustain efforts to monitor, detect and curtail illicit financial flows, end gender inequality and empower women. While many African countries recorded high economic growth rates, it has not been inclusive enough to create decent jobs especially for the most vulnerable segment of society including women and youth.

The Week featured a high-level event that explored ways to align the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU’s Agenda 2063. The event underscored the need to invest in youth and women’s empowerment, tertiary education, energy, infrastructure, technology transfer and agricultural development and address climate change and desertification.

On good governance, participants noted the importance of promoting the organization of free, fair, transparent, credible and peaceful elections and the promotion of reconciliation among political parties after the elections. These governance issues were identified as major elements that destabilize African societies and pose threats to peace, security and stability.

Data is one of the critical areas where Africa needs partners’ cooperation, as well as all stakeholders to build statistical capacities essential for tracking progress and identifying gaps in the implementation of the development agendas. The synergies between the UN Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM) and High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and other relevant forums under the purview of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) should be ensured.
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Africa Week 2016 marked the 7th consecutive year that OSAA has organized the event, in close collaboration with its strategic partners including the UNECA, DPI, the AU and its Permanent Observer Mission in New York, the NEPAD Agency, the APRM and the RECs.

The Week was celebrated in the context of the first year of implementation of both the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU’s Agenda 2063. The two agendas underscore the criticality and importance of partnerships and synergies at all levels and across all sectors for the realization of all aspirations, goals, priority actions and targets. In this regard, the Week was celebrated under the theme “Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusive Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Peace and Stability in Africa”.

The event took place from 10 to 14 October 2016 at the UN headquarters in New York and featured six high-level meetings, which provided an excellent opportunity to lay the foundation for greater synergy, coordination and complementarity amongst the many stakeholders supporting Africa’s transformative and sustainable development agenda. The Week culminated in the 71st UN General Assembly (UNGA) Debate on the Development of Africa.
Africa’s strategic partners - traditional and new/emerging - are at the core of the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU’s Agenda 2063. In this regard, both agendas underscore the importance of partnerships as key for their successful implementation: in particular, Agenda 2063 envisions the continent “as a strong, united, resilient and influential player and partner”. Similarly, Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda emphasizes the critical need for partnerships.

A. MAIN OBJECTIVES

I. Underscore the importance of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships for the effective implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 in Africa;

II. Highlight opportunities for strengthening the roles and partnerships between the UN, international community and African regional and sub-regional organizations in the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063;
III. Discuss and articulate innovative and concrete ways to enhance the current partnership approaches between the UN and Africa in the areas of peace, security and governance;

IV. Share insights and experiences on Africa’s existing strategic partnership arrangements, and explore measures for further deepening the transformative and mutual benefits of these partnerships in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063.

V. Identify entry points for enhancing public-private partnerships and collaboration with the private sector, civil society and the Diaspora in mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in Africa.

B. SUMMARY OF THE WEEK’S EVENTS

I. Monday, 10 October 2016, 10:00 am-1:00 pm: High-level inaugural event: “Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusive Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Peace and Stability in Africa”. This event, which served as the formal opening of Africa Week 2016, focused on the overall theme of the Week. It highlighted the importance of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships in ensuring the effective implementation, financing and monitoring of all the aspirations and goals contained in both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The event highlighted the relevance and instrumentality of partnerships for supporting the full realization of Africa’s aspirations for inclusive socio-economic development, peace and security, good governance and human rights. It provided insights into Africa’s twin-perspectives on partnerships, which seeks mutually beneficial relations to enhance its transformation and integration efforts on the one hand, and promote Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global partner, on the other.

The event featured Africa’s strategic partnerships with both traditional partners such as the EU, Japan and USA, as well as with new and emerging partners such as Brazil, China, India, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Russia Federation and Turkey. Collectively, these strategic partners have invested heavily in supporting a range of Africa’s aspirations and goals, including in peace and security, democracy, good governance, human rights, human development, agricultural development, infrastructure development, humanitarian relief, and the promotion of resilient and quality health systems, among others. Their increasing engagement in Africa is broadening the options for growth on the continent and also presents significant opportunities for Africa’s realization of its transformative agenda. While showcasing best practices and experiences from these existing partnerships, the event also aimed to highlight gaps and lessons learned. It proposed ways in which such strategic partnerships can be further strengthened to ensure mutual and transformative benefits for the international community, the UNs and African regional and sub-regional organizations, in the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

II. Monday, 10 October 2016, 3:00-6:00 pm: High-level UN Interdepartmental Taskforce on African Affairs (IDTFAA) on “Strengthening Partnerships with African Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations on the implementation of the 2030 and 2063 Agendas in Africa”. This briefing provided an important opportunity for the African Union Commission (AUC), the NEPAD Agency and the APRM to engage with the UN system entities on ways to further strengthen the institutional partnerships between the UN and African regional and sub-regional organizations, including the RECs, towards ensuring the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. It highlighted issues related to strengthening partnerships, a coherent and integrated approach for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, and ways to enhance and strengthen the role of NEPAD and the APRM as implementing partners.
III. Tuesday, 11 October 2016, 10:00 am-1:00 pm: High-level event: “Strengthening Partnerships for Peace, Security and Stability in Africa”. This high-level event focused on how to further enhance the strategic partnership between the international community, UN, the AU, RECs and other relevant African institutions towards Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020, as stipulated in the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration of the Organization of African Unity/AU and in the Agenda 2063 First Ten-Year Implementation Plan. In 2014, the UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted a Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2014/27) on cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security, in which the Council welcomed the pledge by African leaders to end all wars in Africa by 2020 and called in particular on relevant UN entities “to help achieve this goal including by considering defining a concrete five-year actionable plan in support of the goal of achieving a conflict-free Africa by 2020”. Similarly, the UNGA, in its resolution 69/291, called upon “Member States and the United Nations system, as appropriate, to intensify their support and cooperation with African countries, the African Union and the African RECs/RMs towards the timely realization of the goal of silencing the guns by 2020”.

This event specifically reviewed progress made in the partnership between the UN and Africa on this goal, as well as identified additional areas for urgent and concrete actions to strengthen the UN-AU-RECs partnership and other existing strategic partnership arrangements towards “Silencing the guns by 2020” and addressing the root causes of conflicts in Africa. In particular, the event highlighted ways of strengthening the nexus between peace, security, development, good governance and respect for human rights. It also highlighted the institutional relations and partnerships with Africa in implementing the recommendations of the 2015 reviews of UN Peace Operations, the UN Peacebuilding Architecture and Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. It further highlighted existing and new opportunities for enhancing effective collaboration and partnerships with African governments, the private sector, civil society, and the Diaspora in addressing the causes and consequences of violent extremism and terrorism, promoting the role of youth and women in peace and security, and in mobilizing resources for peace and security initiatives in Africa – consistent with the AU Peace Fund.

IV. Wednesday, 12 October 2016, 12:15-1:15 pm: Africa Week joint press conference. The event provided a platform for New York-based journalists to interact with senior UN and AU officials. The conference was addressed by Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, H.E. Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson, Africa Union Commission, H.E. Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECA and H.E. Mr. Eddy Maloka, CEO, APRM Secretariat. Ms. Margaret Novicki, Director, Strategic Communications Division, DPI moderated the briefing.

V. Wednesday, 12 October 2016, 3:00-6:00 pm: High-level event: “A Renewed Global Partnership for Entrenching Good Governance and the Rule of Law in Africa”. Consistent with both Aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063 on “An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law” and Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”, the event underscored the importance of good governance for the achievement of all the aspirations and goals of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. In this respect, it further advocated for the strengthening of partnerships to promote good governance in Africa in four main areas, namely: (i) democracy and political governance; (ii) economic governance and management; (iii) corporate governance; and (iv) socio-economic development. The event also highlighted existing and new opportunities for deepening partnerships to strengthen good governance in Africa, including addressing challenges of unconstitutional changes of government, winner-takes-all electoral culture, corruption, poor management of diversity, poor natural resource management, and promoting women and youth empowerment and development, among others. It also highlighted opportunities for enhancing institutional support, partnerships,
synergy and coordination between the international community, UN, the African Governance Architecture, the APRM, and the RECs in preventing conflicts, promoting good governance and post-conflict reconstruction and development on the continent.

VI. Thursday, 13 October 2016, 3:00-6:00 pm: High-level event: “Leveraging Partnerships for the Effective Implementation and Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa”.

African countries made substantial progress in the last decade thanks to the implementation of the NEPAD programme and the MDGs. This has been evident in strong growth and rising per capita incomes across the continent. Despite this, poverty remains pervasive and income inequality high. This was largely due to the fact that growth was fuelled by extractive industries and did not lead to a substantial increase in employment creation. Furthermore, the collapse of commodity prices since 2014 has led to fiscal contraction, with many governments curtailing spending on the social and public services, including education, health, water and sanitation. This may pose a significant challenge to the realisation of the 2030 agenda vision of “leaving no one behind” and the overarching aspiration of Agenda 2063 of realizing a peaceful and prosperous Africa. An estimated amount of at least $600 billion will be needed each year to achieve the SDGs in Africa. This amount equates to roughly one-third of African countries’ gross national income. Dwindling official development aid over the recent years has led to concerns over raising much needed resources.
In this context, strengthened domestic resource mobilisation on the African continent as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships including the private sector will be crucial to cover this funding gap. Partnerships can play an essential role in supporting regional and national policy interventions and South-South Cooperation (SSC) through predictable funding to bridge the financing gap, capacity building to strengthen policy design and implementation, and technology transfer. Furthermore, partnerships can foster entrepreneurship and innovation which can help African countries leapfrog ahead, while providing opportunities for young people through investments in innovation and skill development. In this respect the focus must include fiscal resource mobilization, harnessing natural resources, leveraging the pool of African institutional savings, and curbing of illicit financial flows. Successfully halting and reversing these flows will provide critical domestic resources for financing the continent’s efforts to achieve the ambitious aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. Cooperation with the private sector as the engine for more inclusive and sustainable economic growth, decent job creation, and structural transformation developing industrialization and improving countries’ ability to benefit from trade is instrumental in achieving the SDGs.

It is critical to make development partners accountable for supporting the implementation of Agendas 2063 and 2030. In this perspective, this event highlighted new and innovative ways to strengthen robust partnerships to achieve sustained and inclusive economic growth and development as encapsulated by Agendas 2030 and 2063.


C. PARTICIPANTS

Representatives of UN Member States, UN system entities, African institutions, the international development community, including African stakeholders, the private sector, civil society organizations including youth and women groups, the African Diaspora, the academic community, think-tanks and research institutions focusing on Africa-related issues participated in the meetings organized under the auspices of Africa Week 2016.

D. PARTNERS

I. United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
II. United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
III. Department of Public Information
IV. African Union
V. The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Agency
VI. The African Peer Review Mechanism
VII. The Regional Economic Communities (CEN-SAD, COMESA, ECCAS)
VIII. The United Nations Interdepartmental Taskforce on African Affairs, comprising all United Nations Secretariat Departments and Offices, Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies
I. HIGH-LEVEL INAUGURAL EVENT: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, GOOD GOVERNANCE, PEACE AND STABILITY IN AFRICA

The year 2016 marks the first year in the implementation of both the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the AU’s transformative Agenda 2063. The two transformational and ambitious agendas as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) share broad areas of convergence that warrant coherent and coordinated implementation. Given the significant means of implementation required to achieve the transformative and ambitious goals and targets, these over-arching frameworks underscore the importance of a revitalized global partnership for development. They also affirm the importance of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships for the effective implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063 in Africa.

A. INAUGURAL OPENING OF AFRICA WEEK 2016

In his opening remarks, Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa highlighted that the inaugural event marked the 7th year that OSAA had convened the Africa Week, which provides a platform to discuss issues of relevance to Africa’s sustainable development. He said that during the past events, OSAA had engaged various stakeholders in fruitful debates on issues such as Africa’s Continental Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), youth and women’s empowerment, inclusive governance and socio-economic development. Mr. Abdelaziz noted that this year’s Africa Week continued that legacy and was marked by an important milestone, where African countries embarked on their journey towards implementing the aspirations and goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. He observed that African countries had made laudable progress over the last 15 years, including accelerating growth and rising per capita income. He also referred to progress in the areas of governance, peace and security and the progress that was made towards the MDGs, especially in net primary school enrolment, gender parity in primary education, gender equality, immunization coverage, and drops in maternal mortality in several countries across the continent.

Mr. Abdelaziz noted that despite this progress, a few challenges remained, including pervasive poverty, high inequality, high unemployment and limited diversification, weak infrastructure development, as well as challenges in governance, peace and security. He added that because of the enormity of the challenges that confront the continent and ambitions spelled out in both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, enhanced and revitalised partnerships are necessary to deliver on all sustainable development goals. This would imply new partnerships as well as refocusing, reinforcing and revitalising existing ones.

Mr. Abdelaziz added that African countries need to forge partnerships first with domestic stakeholders, and then with international partners. He emphasized that multiple stakeholders, from civil society to youth groups, to multilateral institutions such as the UN and the AU needed to come together to promote effective implementation of policies that further sustainable development, as well to counter the worrying trends of undermining democratic processes as seen in some parts of the continent.
Mr. Abdelaziz also underlined the importance of multi-sectoral partnerships between the public and private sectors, philanthropic organizations, think-tanks and academia, particularly regarding the growing need to think through and innovatively address issues such as the youth bulge, infrastructure development, urbanization and climate change. Mr. Abdelaziz identified three overarching objectives for partnerships, namely: (i) the need to mobilize sufficient, predictable and timely financial resources for Africa’s sustainable development; (ii) the need to develop capacities for devising and implementing effective policies at continental, regional and national levels guided by country and collective priorities; and (iii) the need to facilitate technology transfer.

In his statement, H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly (PGA) noted that this year’s Africa Week comes as governments, the international community, civil society and other stakeholders, look to take forward the implementation of the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, AAAA, and Paris Agreement which was to enter into force on 4 November 2016. He observed that enforcement of the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was welcome news for the world, and particularly for Africa’s prospects for sustainable development. He pointed out that although Africa contributes only 3.8 percent of total greenhouse gas emissions, many African countries are amongst those most affected by climate change, with climate variability impacting extreme weather events, food and water security, and other forms of environmental degradation. He further stated that if the 2030 Agenda, AAAA, and Paris Agreement together are implemented urgently, effectively and at scale; this would provide humanity with a universal masterplan to transform our world, by eliminating extreme poverty, building peaceful and inclusive societies, increasing prosperity, empowering women and girls, and combating climate change.

Mr. Thomson lauded AU’s decision to align Agenda 2063 with the 2030 Agenda and described it as a clear demonstration of African states’ commitment to coherent, coordinated, effective, efficient, and sustainable development. He added that both agendas are based on an understanding of the interconnected nature of peace and security, development, good governance, rule of law, and human rights. The agendas take an inclusive, people-centred approach to development; to empowering women and youth, and to ensuring that development gains reach all people in society – particularly the most vulnerable. The agendas also recognize the importance of partnerships, and of innovative sources of financing, to achieving sustainable development and sustainable peace.

It is against this backdrop, he informed the meeting that the PGA had decided to devote his Presidency to drive a universal push for meaningful progress in implementing all 17 SDGs. The SDG Implementation Team within the PGA’s office was finalizing an SDG Implementation Strategy, which will seek to drive implementation on three tracks, namely: (1) Strengthening momentum in the implementation of each of the 17 SDGs by providing sustained engagement to support successful outcomes from previously mandated SDG events and processes, including the Habitat III Conference in Quito in October 2016; the COP22 in Marrakech in November 2016; and the Oceans Conference on SDG 14 in New York in June 2017; (2) Supporting existing efforts within and outside of the UN system to drive strategic partnerships, and raising the global public’s awareness of the critical importance of SDG implementation; and last but not least, (3) Organizing a number of signature events throughout the year that will lay the foundation for sustained action in key areas right until the end of 2030. The PGA assured the meeting that each of the priority areas of the SDG Implementation Strategy is consistent with the key priority areas for Africa’s development, as set out in the Agenda 2063 and NEPAD’s programme. In his opening address, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, welcomed the enormous progress African countries have made in the last decade in accelerating growth and raising per capita income. He noted that reforms undertaken in
Africa had increased the region’s attractiveness to investment. The UN Secretary-General noted that advances had also been made towards the MDGs through the African Steering Group for the MDGs and various multi-stakeholder initiatives which contributed to those efforts. Mr. Ban said that Africa’s voice was central in shaping the landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the AAAA for financing the new framework. He noted that 14 African states were among those which had ratified the Paris Agreement on climate change, which enters into force on November 4th 2016. The UN Secretary-General emphasized that the Agreement provided a framework, including for financing and technology transfer that could help Africa to mitigate and adapt to this threat. On governance systems in Africa, the Mr. Ban noted that progress was being made, especially through the APRM, although weaknesses were still visible. He observed that while a large number of African countries had organized multi-party elections on a regular basis, too frequently their credibility had been questioned, pushing countries to the precipice of conflict.

Mr. Ban noted that there had been efforts to undermine democratic practices, including by leaders taking dubious steps to stay in office beyond their constitutionally mandated terms. He urged the international community to support African countries, working with all relevant national and regional stakeholders, including with the APRM to improve good governance, the conduct of elections and to ensure that civil society had the freedom to play its vital role. Mr. Ban added that over the past ten years, the UN had spared no effort to support Africa in the achievement of peace and security through the implementation of the Africa Peace Security Architecture (APSA) to support the AU initiative to ‘Silence the Guns by 2020’. He pointed out that the UN had been working alongside the AU to advance peace in the Great Lakes, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and other troubled spots. He noted, however, that conflicts in South Sudan, Sudan and elsewhere continue to cause horrific suffering, with impacts ranging far and wide across the continent.
Mr Ban urged African governments to align their development planning with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, working with parliaments, the private sector, civil society, women and youth organizations, trade unions, and philanthropic organisations. He noted that this should be complemented by South-South and triangular cooperation and welcomed the increasing engagement of China and other Southern partners in Africa’s development, as well the role of Japan through the Tokyo International Conference of African Development (TICAD) platform. Mr. Ban also underlined that increased support should be provided for the implementation of Africa’s regional projects. The UN Secretary-General stated that within the UN system, the 2030 Agenda had provided a renewed impetus to improve coherence to deliver as one at the country, regional and global levels. He added that he had also strengthened OSAA, to support Africa in implementing its priorities.

H.E. Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the AU Commission, thanked the UN Secretary-General for his focused support to Africa and for strengthening collaboration between the AU and the UN. He said that no country was an island and could not address all the challenges to sustainable development alone. Mr. Mwencha stated that the complexity of challenges facing the world, ranging from international migration, terrorism, conflict, rising intolerance, gender inequality, were common universal challenges that required concerted global efforts. He noted that democratic governance, peace and security were the foundations of sustainable development. Mr. Mwencha explained that African countries had begun with the implementation of both the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development through mainstreaming them into their respective national development frameworks. He added that the AU was also rolling out the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the Agenda 2063.

Mr. Mwencha noted that Africa and the global South are demanding an equal voice at the table, which is vital to finding solutions to common challenges. Therefore, he underscored that there must be burden sharing among actors and international cooperation to resolve conflicts and building resilient institutions for conflict prevention and resolution. Mr.
Mwencha also noted that given the important role played by the RECs in coordinating the implementation of projects and programmes at the sub-regional level, increased support should be provided to the RECs to enable them to effectively fulfil their respective roles. He argued that the UN should support the UN-AU Partnership on Africa’s Integration and Development Agenda (PAIDA), the programme that will succeed the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme (TYCBP) for the AU. He encouraged the African Group at the UN headquarters in New York to submit a resolution on the matter to the 71st session of the UNGA.

In his remarks, Mr. Vitaly Churkin, President of the UNSC and Permanent Representative of Russia to the UN underscored the important role of the Council in the resolution of conflict, working in collaboration with regional organisations. He noted that the UNSC had strengthened cooperation with the AU Peace and Security Council. Mr. Churkin noted that Africa had immense potential and with strengthened international support could become an engine of global growth. He underlined the importance of aligning the 2030 Agenda with the key messages of the AU Agenda 2063 as crucial for the effective implementation of the SDGs. Mr. Churkin said that the Russian Federation continued to be an important strategic partner of Africa, and highlighted specific support the Russian Federation provides, including debt relief, preferential tariff treatment for African products in Russia; human capital development through training and scholarships; and support to address health challenges in Africa.

In her remarks, H.E. Ms. Marie Chatardova, Vice President of the ECOSOC stated that the UN 2030 Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063 represented two visionary frameworks for development. She observed that Goal 17 of the 2030 Agenda emphasized that a revitalized global partnership for development was indispensable in achieving the ambitious people-centred SDGs and targets. Ms. Chatardova underlined the need for effective collaboration of governments with business, civil society and other stakeholders as vital for achieving inclusive sustainable development, noting that everyone would need to work together to ensure synergies and enhance the impact of their work in meeting today’s global development challenges. She alluded to ECOSOC’s long standing partnership with Africa and emphasised that the UNECA is at the forefront of the Council’s work in Africa. She pointed out that with UNECA as a subsidiary body of ECOSOC; it provided cutting-edge research and analysis to support policy-making in Africa.

Ms. Chatardova pointed out that following the Millennium Summit in September 2000, ECOSOC devoted the high-level segment of July 2001 to Africa. It was the first opportunity for the international community to respond to NEPAD, designed, owned and led by Africans for Africans. She explained that as ECOSOC progressed in its normative function, it recognised the need for the creation of the first “ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African countries emerging from conflict”, noting that issues of importance to Africa’s development had remained high on the ECOSOC agenda. She informed the meeting that H.E. Mr. Frederick Shava, President of ECOSOC had proposed that the Council dedicate sufficient time during its
2016-2017 substantive session on innovations for building infrastructure and promoting sustainable industrialization as these are urgent priorities, particularly for Africa and all countries in special situations. Ms. Chatardova noted that Mr. Shava planned to convene a Special Meeting of ECOSOC on “Innovations for Infrastructure Development and promoting Sustainable Industrialization” at UN headquarters in the spring of 2017. She informed the meeting that the President proposed holding two preparatory meetings in Africa prior to the Special Meeting.

H.E. Mr. Abdallah Wafy, Permanent Representative of Niger to the UN and Chair of the African Group for the month of October 2016 also addressed the meeting and stated that Africa Week was held at a critical stage in the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. He said efforts across the three pillars of sustainable development namely: economic, social, and environment, would be required in order to achieve the aspirations and goals of both agendas. Given the mixed results in the implementation of the MDGs, he noted that African leaders recognised the need to adopt a bold and comprehensive Agenda 2063 for the continent’s transformation over the next 50 years. He said that African countries will spare no efforts to ensure full and effective implementation of the Agendas, but that this would require strengthened resource mobilisation and sound macroeconomic policy.

In this regard, he also noted that African countries have shown the political will to tackle illicit financial flows which haemorrhage African economies of essential resources for financing the continent’s development. Mr. Wafy commended African leaders for their decision at the AU Summit in Kigali (in July 2016) to mobilise additional resources through the import levy as well as the establishment of a Peace Fund. He said this would also require revitalised international partnerships to support African countries in their efforts. Hence he stressed the need for development partners to fully meet their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments and align their support with Africa’s priorities.

Mr. Wafy urged the AU and UN to better coordinate their work for maximum impact. He underlined that for the UN to be fit for purpose, it must prioritise Africa in its operations.

He said that support must be provided to the RECs considering their pivotal role in implementation, evaluating and monitoring of the agendas and that the (HLPF and the UNMM need to be aligned.
B. HIGH-LEVEL SUBSTANTIVE SEGMENT

In her opening remarks, Ms. Cristina Gallach, Under-Secretary-General for the Department of Public Information (DPI) noted that the UN 2030 Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063 created a vision for a collective aspiration towards a peaceful and prosperous Africa. She observed that negative narratives and stories about the continent were leading in media coverage while in fact many African countries are making significant progress in all areas, including in women’s empowerment. She said that a concerted effort by all actors was needed to advance the transformative vision of both agendas. Agenda 2063 demonstrated a commitment by African leaders to build a better future for their citizens. Ms. Gallach added. She emphasized that the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 were mutually reinforcing, the challenge now was how to mobilize all efforts to work relentlessly to implement these ambitious development agendas.

H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, stated that the NEPAD Agency was promoting the concept of “intelligent partnerships”. He added that most of Africa’s bilateral partnerships over the past half century were anchored on structural adjustment programmes and rarely transformed the continent. Mr. Mayaki informed the meeting that a new view on partnerships has begun to emanate towards making major policy choices on a common coordinated agenda by Africa. He stated that Africa has the capability to fully develop through multidimensional partnerships that would support its transformation programmes and projects, including (i) amongst Africans at all levels of the society; (ii) between African countries within the continent; and (iii) between Africa and the rest of the world.
Mr. Mayaki elaborated on the latter, and stated that the AU Assembly took a decision in January 2014 instructing the NEPAD Agency to develop its technical capacity to monitor the implementation of partnership commitments. In this regard, the basis of the NEPAD Stakeholders and Partnerships Strategy 2015-2017 was to ensure that the NEPAD Agency works closely with the AUC and key African Stakeholders to shift from a passive actor to a proactive partner that is able to collaborate with willing partners and stakeholders through joint programming under a result-based management regime that is impact-orientated.

Mr. Mayaki added that the NEPAD Agency would support the African partnerships on a “win-win” outcome for both Africa and its global partners. He observed that the principles guiding “intelligent partnerships” were anchored on: joint programme planning; capacity development and skills transfers; mutual knowledge exchange and mutual accountability; and on the alignment and coordination of project implementation under the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity.

Mr. Mayaki noted that he had seen some very encouraging and action-oriented partnerships that could certainly be defined as “intelligent partnerships”, including the Africa-EU Summit on Migration in Valletta November 2015, Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in Johannesburg December 2015 and TICAD in Nairobi August 2016. These summits predominantly addressed issues such as continental integration and inclusive economic development; human development; and sustainable peace and security. He added that with the historic peace deal signed in Colombia, the entire Western hemisphere was now free of armed conflict, noting that conflicts were now on one side of the globe which was Africa and the Middle East. Mr. Mayaki concluded that Africa could also be at peace through building ‘intelligent partnerships’.

In his opening intervention, H.E. Mr. Koro Bessho, Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN, stated that since its launch in 1993, the TICAD process provided a unique framework for cooperation and partnership between Japan, African countries and the UN system. He noted that the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-VI) Summit held in Nairobi in August 2016 was the first summit to be held in Africa. The TICAD-VI Summit focused on the theme: “Advancing Africa’s Sustainable Development Agenda – TICAD Partnership for Prosperity”. Mr. Bessho informed the meeting that the summit adopted the Nairobi Declaration which focused on issues of significant importance to Africa, including the falling commodity prices; the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease; radicalization, terrorism, and armed conflict; and climate change. He added that Japan would continue to invest in supporting African development priorities. It had recently pledged over $30 billion over the next three years to Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to support inclusive growth and sustainable development in Africa. Mr. Bessho noted that to promote multi-stakeholder partnerships, the TICAD-VI Summit witnessed the announcement of the establishment of public-private forums to promote partnerships with the framework of respecting African ownership of development processes.
In his intervention H.E. Mr. Liu Jieyi, Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of China to the UN, observed that Africa’s partnerships must continue to focus on eradicating poverty, promoting industrialization and infrastructure development. He noted that ODA commitments must be fulfilled. In addition, Mr. Liu informed the meeting, global economic governance needed to be reformed to allow for greater participation of African countries. He stated that there could be no development without peace and security. Mr. Liu noted that China continued to support efforts to strengthen peace and stability in Africa, with 2000 Chinese peacekeepers currently deployed to seven UN peacekeeping missions. He informed the meeting that to contribute to the fight against piracy and enhance maritime security, China had deployed vessels in the Gulf of Aden in 23 Missions that provided security for tens of thousands of ships.

He also added that the China-UN Peace and Development Fund was up and running. Mr. Liu stated that the last FOCAC Summit held in December 2015 in Johannesburg, South Africa had, decided to reinvigorate China-Africa partnerships, with over $60 billion funding support being pledged, and some 240 agreements signed totalling $50 billion. Mr. Liu said that as the current president of the G20, China will continue to push for a greater participation from developing countries, including from Africa. He added that the first G20 Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was agreed upon during the 2016 G20 Hangzhou Summit where an initiative to support industrialization in Africa and the LDCs was also launched.

In his intervention, H.E. Mr. Terence McCulley, Ambassador and Senior Advisor for African Affairs in USA, stated that to advance peace, security, governance, human rights, socio-economic and development plans in Africa, and fully implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, all available partnerships needed to be leveraged, including Member States, the UN system and other international organizations, African regional and sub-regional institutions, the private sector, civil society, academia, diaspora communities, and individual citizens. He informed the meeting that USA was partnering with African countries and regional and multilateral institutions to strengthen Africa’s democratic institutions; to support free, fair, and democratic elections; advance peace and security, and fight terrorism and other transnational threats; as well as to support Africa’s economic growth and prosperity, including by helping African countries to create opportunities for the future generation.

Mr. McCulley said that to fully defeat terrorist groups, additional progress was needed on human rights, reconciliation, governance, and economic development. He informed the meeting that USA was working with African governments to build capacity, create jobs, and improve education systems and other services. He added that USA also provided bilateral peacekeeping training as part of its efforts to enhance peace, security, and stability on the continent.
Mr. McCulley explained that the USA was invested in programmes to support economic growth in Africa and promote investment from the America business sector, most notably the reauthorization of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the Power Africa Initiative. He added that on building resilience against epidemics and enhancing the capacity of health systems, USA had made a commitment to assist more than 30 countries over five years under the Global Health Security Agenda to expand national and global capacities to help prevent, detect, and respond to future infectious disease outbreaks. Mr. McCulley noted that there were a number of opportunities for expanding and forming new partnerships, including on: (i) the needs of the youth populations in Africa; (ii) women’s participation in all aspects of society; and (iii) good governance, as a foundation for sustained economic growth and the consolidation of democratic institutions.

Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNECA, said that, Africa had made progress in all areas of peace, security, development and governance. He noted that despite some challenges, the fundamentals for inclusive economic growth were being institutionalized on the continent. Mr. Hamdok informed the meeting that in early October, the 2016 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) was launched and it had provided a positive review of the efforts to promote good governance in Africa. According to the index, governance had improved in 37 African countries over the last decade. Mr. Hamdok stated that the World Bank 2016 Doing Business report also provided positive reviews about reforms in Africa’s business environment.

He noted that there are a number of issues that should be accorded due attention by African countries and their development partners to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development, including the need to: (i) create an environment of meaningful participation by all citizenry; (ii) the need to invest in people, as human development is of outmost importance; (iii) economic diversification; (iv) deepen regional integration among African countries; (v) promote healthy urbanization; (vi) devote more attention to emerging threats, particularly climate change; and finally, (vii) for serious efforts to mobilize development financing.

The final speaker, Mr. Jason Lamin, Founder and Managing Partner, Lenox Park Solutions, a technology solutions company based in USA, stated that there were many unknowns when it came to investing in Africa. However, the business environment was improving and there were numerous opportunities for investment on the continent. He stated that fair access to capital was very important and should be facilitated to all African countries. Mr. Lamin informed the meeting that Africa represented an important destination for investments, noting that there was a lot of potential for Africa to receive more capital flows, particularly amid the pension crisis in USA, where frontier markets, particularly in Africa, represented opportunities for US capital. Mr. Lamin noted the growing appreciation of returns on investment in African markets made Africa more attractive to investors.
C. INTERACTIVE SEGMENT

During the interactive discussion session that followed, many representatives that took the floor thanked OSAA for convening the high-level event, and thanked the UN Special Adviser on Africa for his leadership and support for the AU. The following interventions were made:

- The representative from Kazakhstan stated that his country had a vision for its development, the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy, which was very much similar to the AU Agenda 2063, both having the aim to build inclusive and sustainable societies for its citizens. He stated that true and strategic partnership with Africa was not only a choice, but a sure way to address pressing development challenges. He informed the meeting that Kazakhstan would join the UNSC as a non-permanent member in January 2017, and would use its position to support Africa’s peace and security and development agenda. He added that as a partner of Africa, Kazakhstan would continue to increase investments to the African continent. The representative from Kazakhstan reminded the meeting that during the 70th Jubilee of the UNGA, his country had proposed that each UN Member State should allocate one per cent of military expenditure for implementation of SDGs in each country.

  He noted that with additional domestic resource mobilization through taxation, Member States could raise some of the resources required to implement the SDGs. The representative from Kazakhstan concluded by noting that his President, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, had proposed that for the centenary of the UN, a 2045 ‘Global Strategic Initiative Plan’ should be agreed upon with a core idea to launch a new trend in global development based on fair conditions where all nations would have equal access to world infrastructure, resources and markets, as well as to maintain comprehensive accountability for human development. The speaker noted that this comprised a five-point programme, including the need to transform the UN ECOSOC into the Global Development Council, consisting of Member States elected by the UNGA, heads of all UN specialized agencies, with the task of becoming a global economic regulator to promote world-wide growth.

- The representative from Morocco informed the meeting that Africa had made good progress through the adoption of Agenda 2063, and that African Member States were now working on developing the appropriate tools to implement the agenda. He called for strategic partnerships from all stakeholders, including from both traditional and new and emerging development partners, the private sector and civil society, academia and the diaspora, to support African countries in their efforts towards implementing both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda
The representative from Morocco referred to the decision by the UNGA in proclaiming the period 2016-2025 as the Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa. He added that the decade was a way to place the African continent irrevocably on the path towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development. The speaker also noted that Africa still remained one of the poorest and most vulnerable regions in the world, with the greatest number of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and therefore strategic partnerships were critical to support the continent in its efforts to advance sustainable industrialization. He also called for development partners to honour ODA pledges. In his conclusion, the representative from Morocco mentioned the convening of the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the UNFCCC in Morocco scheduled to be held from 7-18 November 2016, where parties will, inter alia, begin preparations for the entry into force of the Paris Agreement.

The representative from the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) stated that it was important for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063 to be synchronized. She queried whether an in-depth analysis had been initiated to ensure coherence between indicators of both agendas to avoid duplication of efforts by the various partners. The representative from ECCAS stated that African Member States had the political will, with the support of the UNECA, to implement the SDGs and Agenda 2063. She informed the meeting of the recent adoption at the 27th AU Summit of the decision to institute and implement a 0.2 percent levy, with effect from 2017, on all eligible imported goods into the continent to finance the AU's operational projects, programmes and peace and security operations, including the implementation of Agenda 2063. She noted, however, that in order for Africa to be successful in implementing its agenda, it required true partnerships from all stakeholders. To conclude, the representative stated that Africa had to transform through industrialization, and the creation of jobs, particularly for the youth who would otherwise join terrorist organizations, and she called for more UN engagement on the continent.

The representative from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) stated that there was a strong link between peace and security and development. He noted that the rising tide of terrorism in Africa had to be addressed collectively and comprehensively, by looking first at the root causes of terrorism. The representative also added that all the African RECs were looking into this issue with the aim of taking an integrated approach in dealing with ongoing challenge. He called for greater partnerships with the UN, traditional and new and emerging partners, the private sector and civil society, to support African countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. The representative from the COMESA concluded by noting that the AU and UN should perform a gaps analysis to establish areas where strategic partnerships are needed to ensure implementation of the respective goals and aspirations.

The representative from the APRM Panel stated that the AU was making good progress on governance issues on the continent and was working tirelessly to push the peace and security and development agenda forward. He acknowledged the progress being made by the AU in developing functional institutions that were working and beginning to bear fruits. The representative also alluded to the recent report by 2016 IIAG, which revealed that improvement in overall governance in Africa over the past ten years has been held back by a widespread deterioration in the category of Safety & Rule of Law. He noted that the report showed that over the last decade, overall governance had improved by one score point at the continental average level, with 37 countries – home to 70 per cent of African citizens – registering progress. The representative from the APRM Panel noted that the overall positive trend had been led mainly by improvement in Human Development and Participation & Human Rights, adding that Sustainable Economic Opportunity also registered an improvement, but at a much slower pace.
Ms. Delois Blakely, Community Mayor of Harlem, representing civil society, called for more economic development in Africa and better management of natural resources for the betterment of the peoples' of Africa. She also called for true partnerships with all stakeholders, including with the private sector, women groups, the youth and the diaspora. The representative from the Futures Foundation and Friends of Africa called on the UN to do more in the fight against the violation of human rights, particularly for those of African descent who have been systematically targeted by police brutality in the USA, and in many African countries. The representative from the African Affairs Committee of the New York Bar Association queried about the link between tourism and terrorism, noting its deleterious impact in Nigeria and Tunisia in recent months.

In response to the interventions made, Mr. Mayaki stated that the AU had an Action Plan for Tourism, and this included dealing with security issues related to terrorism. He noted that even though terrorism affected tourism in some African countries, this made up only five per cent of the people living in Africa, with 95 percent not directly impacted by terrorism. Mr. Mayaki underlined the need to communicate this positive trend to avoid the risk perception that is constantly reported.

He noted that good communication on the positive role of tourism was important for Africa’s development. On the issue of youth unemployment and terrorism, Mr. Mayaki agreed that it was critical to create employment opportunities for youth through industrialization and infrastructure development across the continent, failure in this regard would result in many unemployed youth joining terrorist groups such as Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab in Africa. Mr. Mayaki emphasized the importance of strategic partnerships for Africa to support Africa’s efforts in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU’s Agenda 2063.

Mr. Mwencha also responded to the interventions and emphasised that all partners need to come together to fight terrorism as it does not have borders. He called on partners to share information and intelligence. Mr. Mwencha also reiterated the need for strong partnerships with all stakeholders to support the AU and its RECs, and particularly, the AU member states in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063.

Mr. Hamdok responded to the interventions by assuring the audience that the spread of terrorism and its impact on Africa’s economies was of serious concern to the work of ECA. He seconded Mr. Mwencha in emphasizing the importance of partners coming together to fight the scourge of terrorism, which also greatly affected the tourism industry. On unemployment among the youth, he also stressed the need for a transformation of African economies through the process of industrialization and job creation, in line with the aspirations laid out under the AU Agenda 2063.
Mr. Hamdok emphasized the need to build functioning institutions within Africa that created jobs and moved the skills based population into more formal and decent sectors of employment. He informed the meeting that the ECA will continue to function as the Secretariat for the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) in support of the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063, and called for the implementation of the AU priorities through PAIDA.

D. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maintain an African voice as it has been central in shaping the landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the AAAA of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Africa’s Agenda 2063 is also a clarion call by Africa itself for an integrated, peaceful and prosperous continent in the next 50 years.

- African governments have been working to align their national and regional development plans with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Parliaments, the private sector, civil society, women and youth organizations, trade unions, philanthropists and other actors have crucial roles to play in supporting Africa’s efforts towards this end. These efforts must be supported by development partners, including the UN system to ensure a coordinated and integrated implementation of global and African development agendas.

- Africa’s strategic partnership must be adjusted and streamlined to further focus on Africa’s development priorities identified in Agenda 2063, including regional integration, structural economic transformation, peace and security, women and youth empowerment and addressing the effects of climate change.

- Governance systems, peace and security, and development efforts in Africa are also improving, especially through the work of the APRM, the African Governance Architecture (AGA), the APSA, and the implementation of the projects under the purview of the NEPAD Agency, including the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063. International support is an indispensable ingredient for the successful realization of a conflict free Africa by 2020, including by supporting the “Silencing the Guns” initiative launched by African countries as one of the key flagship projects of Agenda 2063’s First Ten-Year Implementation Plan.

- The international community, Africa’s traditional development partners, and new and emerging development partners need to support African countries, working with all relevant national and regional stakeholders, including with the AU and its RECs, the APRM, the AGA, and the APSA, to improve good governance, the rule of law, peace
and security, the conduct of elections, and development efforts across the continent.

- There are expansive opportunities for deepening the long standing partnership between the UN, the AU and its RECs in all areas of peace, security, governance and development. In particular, we must draw on the recommendations of the three major reviews undertaken at the UN in 2015 on UN Peace Operations, the UN Peacebuilding Architecture and the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), which placed strong emphasis on fostering closer and more effective partnerships between the UN and regional organizations, particularly with the AU.

- Africa needs support for its regional projects, spearheaded by its NEPAD Agency. The First Ten-Year Action Plan of Agenda 2063 includes ambitious regional projects such as the CFTA, a High-Speed Train Network, a Virtual and E-University, and an Outer Space Agency. Africa’s traditional and new and emerging partners, including the private sector, civil society, academia and the Diaspora should support Africa’s regional projects in this regard.

- Africa and its development partners continue to address the challenges of lack of funding and weak capacities that continue to constitute serious bottlenecks that constrain progress on development priorities. ODA and other commitments pertaining to finance, technology transfer, capacity building and market access must be fulfilled in a timely manner.

- South-South and triangular cooperation is very important for Africa’s development. China-Africa Cooperation during its last Forum pledged over $60 billion over the next 5 years.

- Similarly, the most recent TICAD-VI Summit, Japan pledged over $30 billion to Africa over the next three years.

- The support is welcomed and partnerships with the South, including with Turkey, Brazil, Russia, South Korea, India, and others should similarly be enhanced.

- African countries have done little to contribute to climate change but will be among those most affected by its impact. Fourteen African states are among those that have ratified the Paris Agreement on climate change, which will take effect on 4 November, 2016. All African governments are encouraged to ratify this Agreement. Commitments to support developing countries, including in Africa, to mitigate the devastating effects of climate change must be honoured. In particular pledges made to the Green Climate Fund must be fully implemented in a timely manner.

- The UN system continues to work towards improving its coherence to deliver as one at the country, regional and global levels, in light of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and in support of the AU Agenda 2063. The UN should continue to support the AU through the UN-AU PAIDA, the revitalized and soon to be signed Joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, and the re-clustered RCM, in support of the implementation of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the AU Agenda 2063.
II. PARTNERSHIPS WITH AFRICAN REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AND 2063 AGENDAS IN AFRICA

A. OPENING SEGMENT

Mr. Abdelaziz and H.E. Mr. Téte Antonio, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the AU to the UN co-chaired the meeting of the Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs (IDTFAA). High-level representatives of the AUC, the NEPAD Agency, UNECA, and the APRM presented their work. At least 32 entities from the UN system participated in the meeting.

1 DESA, DPKO, DPA, DPI, ECA, FAO, IAEA, ILO, IMF, OCHA, Regional Commissions New York Office, UN Special Representative to the SG for Children and Armed Conflict, UNCCD, UNCDF, UNDCO, UNDP, UNESCO, UN Global Compact, UNHCR, UNIDO, UN Women, UNODA, OHCHR, UNODC, UN-OSAA, UNOPUNFIP, UNWTO, WFP, WHO, WIPO, and World Bank.
Mr. Abdelaziz opened the meeting, setting out the scope of partnerships for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063, by mentioning that the governments of Japan, China and the USA alone are already dedicating more than US$ 100 billion to the implementation of these agendas. The USG advocated for international partners to direct their funds to continent-wide initiatives, as the AU identified several flagship programmes under the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063. Mr. Abdelaziz also referred to the urgent need to curb illicit financial flows out of Africa so they can be re-directed to development and peace and security objectives. He noted that the NEPAD Agency which was supported in 2001 in a UNGA resolution is no longer the same in 2016, and the UN and its partners need to be aware of these changes and transitions. Lastly, Mr. Abdelaziz addressed the need for the UN to renew its partnership with the AU through the PAIDA, once the Africa Group presents the relevant draft resolution to the UN GA.

In his opening remarks, H.E. Mr. Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the AUC, noted that one of the main challenges of the past - lack of a common African and global agenda - has now been overcome, and therefore it is time to look at the enablers for these agendas. Mr. Mwencha stated that the structural transformation of the African economy is the biggest challenge facing Africa today. He said that the demographic dividend plays a large role in this transformation, which is why the AU will be focusing on Africa’s youth in 2017. Other enablers that Mr. Mwencha highlighted included: an expanding middle class; urbanization and natural and human resources.

When discussing coordination between the AU and the UN, the Deputy Chairperson of the AU underlined the role of the RCM as the mechanism which facilitates coordination between the two entities. He noted that changes had been made to RCM and that the AU has a very clear indication of need on the continent, as the African Heads of State and Government agreed on a resolution which will request the UN to work on a programme that is clearly linked to Agenda 2063. In addition, Mr. Mwencha underlined the importance of global partnerships specially, those that go beyond the UN which are important to Africa, such as the fora and conferences that take place with Japan, China, the US and EU. Lastly, Mr. Mwencha explained the importance of the domestication of Agenda 2063, so African countries have sufficient ownership and understanding to apply the agenda to their national context. He stated that the lack of resources is not always Africa’s biggest challenge, but rather the need “to create an enabling environment that unleashes the capacity on the continent”.

Mr. Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of UNECA focused his remarks on two major achievements of Africa regarding the international agenda in recent years. Firstly, he reminded the audience of the concrete contribution which Africa made through the Common African Position (CAP) during the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. He contrasted this process with the MDG formulation process which was much less participatory and essentially imposed implementation goals on African countries. He then challenged the audience to consider ways for international community to ensure the complementarity of the global agenda 2030 and AU agenda 2063 so policy makers at the country level have clarity on the approach to be adopted. Secondly, Mr. Hamdok referenced the achievement and outcome of the Third Conference on Financing for Development, “which gave the world the excellent AAAA with its financing framework and roadmap”.

In response to Mr. Abdelaziz’s comment on the problem of illicit financial flows, he noted that the figure of $ 50 billion that was quoted by the 2015 report produced by the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa needs to be updated to a more current figure of $ 80 billion, underlining that this is an urgent priority for the continent which requires international collaboration.

B. HIGH-LEVEL BRIEFING SESSION

H.E. Mr. Mustapha Mekideche, Chair of the African Peer Review (APR) Panel of Eminent Persons, highlighted the scope of the African Peer Reviews, underscored the challenges and way forward for the APR Panel in the context of the nexus between peace, security and development. He observed that from inception in 2003 the African Peer Reviews were focused on four main thematic areas: (i) democracy and political governance; (ii) economic governance and management; (iii) corporate governance; and (iv) socioeconomic development. Mr. Mekideche noted that progress has been identified during the 17 reviews completed in 13 years including an important number of best practices and successes in political governance, social governance and economic governance.

Mr. Mekideche outlined some of the challenges that the APR Panel intends to focus upon including: electoral disputes that sometimes degenerate into violent conflicts; youth unemployment; persistent gender inequality; inadequate structural transformation; and security challenges that result from radicalization and extremism. He noted the way forward for the APR Panel as mandated by the recently approved APRM Strategic Plan 2016-2020 by the heads of State and Government in Nairobi, August 2016. The new strategic plan aims to strengthen the mechanism and will allow AU Member States to adopt and adapt a common tracking framework based on APRM tools for progress monitoring in
respect of national programmes of action. Mr. Mekideche further stated that the AU Agenda 2063 inspires the work of the APRM and the latter is aligned to the AU Agenda 2063.

H.E.Ms. Brigitte Sylvia Mabandla of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons noted that 35 countries have acceded to the APRM and President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya has encouraged the remainder of African countries to accede to the mechanism. Seventeen out of 35 countries have been reviewed and are currently implementing recommendations to improve their respective governance and development policies. Ms. Mabandla outlined the methodology of the review as participatory and anchored on broad-based consultations with Governments, civil society and the citizenry which takes three weeks to complete. The report of the APR Panel is subsequently forwarded to the Heads of State and government who advise their peers on identified bad practices and share the good practices outlined in the report.

She further stressed the challenges faced by the APRM in implementing the recommendations made by the APR Panel such as the implementation of the national programme of Action due to inadequate resources. She stated that steps have been taken to address some of the challenges facing the APRM.

She listed the key concerns which were incorporated at the 25th Summit of the APRM Forum presided by President Kenyatta: shared value advocacy and communication; review and implementation of the APRM core mandate; resource mobilization and financial management; capacity development of human resources; development of monitoring and evaluation frameworks and systems; enhancement of research and development capacity and improvement of operational tools; intra-APRM coordination and harmonization; and APRM integration in the AU and universal accession to the mechanism.

Mr. Eddy Maloka, Chief Executive Officer of the APRM Secretariat highlighted the work of the APRM which is guided by winning the trust of its Member States, and highlighted the guiding principles of the balance between non-interference and non-indifference and voluntary accession. Mr. Maloka set out four priority areas where the APRM is not doing business as usual. He noted that governance issues have been tied with certain conditions and created problems in the past. He also added that the APRM is decoupling governance matters from conditions, advancing the Governance Agenda without invoking the fears of regime change.
He stated that the APRM works to find a balance between non-interference and non-indifference; and that the APRM does not interfere in the internal affairs of countries. He noted that it is very important that Member States accede voluntarily and set up their own national structures and appoint a national APRM focal point.

Mr Maloka said that APRM seeks to manage democratic order and electoral processes, which needs to be built on consensus in order to curb division and confusion.

In addition, he highlighted a number of areas where collaborative effort was needed, such as strengthening national mechanisms, the need to invest in the review process. He also referred to the Heads of State and Government’s request to the APRM to do small and quick reviews to enable all the Member States be reviewed on an annual basis. He further explained that the peer review process must be done at a regional level, where there is a need to develop a tracking mechanism, and so the APRM is working with the AU peace and Security Council to ensure the APRM be deployed as part of the crisis response mechanism. He finally assured the meeting that the APRM will work within the aspirations of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

Mr. Mayaki of the NEPAD Agency stated the role of NEPAD as an implementing agency of the AU present in 53 African countries. He underlined the coherence between Agenda 2030 and 2063.

He presented a video to show the progress made by the NEPAD Agency from 2001-2016 in the implementation of key priorities including - regional integration, trade and infrastructure, natural resource governance and food security as well as industrialization, science and technology, innovation and human development.

He further highlighted progress made under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and the 16 mega continental and regional projects of PIDA, as well as progress made under the framework of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), and in the arena of gender equality and women’s empowerment.
C. INTERACTIVE SEGMENT

After the presentations by the African regional and sub-regional institutions, the floor was opened for interventions by IDTFAA members. The following agencies made interventions:

The UNECA briefed the IDTFAA on the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) and noted that the co-chairs UN Deputy-Secretary-General and the AUC Deputy Chairperson had been very supportive of the process. He explained that RCM sessions were now held on the margins of the Annual Joint AU/ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Economic Development and Planning. Following the adoption of Agenda 2063, he further noted that the cluster system had been aligned with Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan in order to support effective implementation of the key priorities. The alignment process was done in close consultation with the AU that decided on eight (8) clusters: sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industry, trade and regional integration; infrastructure development; human capital development, health, science, technology and innovation; labour, employment creation, social protection, migration and mobility; women and gender equality and youth empowerment; humanitarian matters; environment, urbanization and population; and advocacy, information, communication and culture. These clusters are aligned with the AU priorities and a matrix was developed matching the activities, and priorities of each of the UN entities. The matrix needs to be validated by the UN and the AU during a retreat tentatively scheduled to take place on the 23 and 24 of November 2016.

- He also noted that the clusters had started to meet in Addis Ababa and as the secretariat of RCM; he encouraged each cluster to meet as soon as possible. Regarding the advocacy, information, communication and culture cluster, he highlighted that OSAA was the former chair and explained that there was a need to firm up the chairmanship of the revamped cluster advocacy, information, communication and culture. On PAIDA; he explained that it would
replace the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme which expires by the end of 2016. The Representative of ECA also highlighted the historic decision, at the AU Summit of July 2016, to make the AU self-reliant and acknowledged Mr. Mwencha’s leadership on this achievement. He referred to the 0.2 per cent levy on eligible imports in African countries to finance the AU and the AU Peace Fund and that African leaders committed to fund 25 per cent of all peace operations. It crucial for the development partners to support the AU in the implementation of these commitments.

- Mr Gyan Chandra Acharya, the Under Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) noted that Africa was the only continent with its own Common Position for Agenda 2030, and that there were a lot of commonalities between Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He noted that since a large number of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS are in Africa, it was important to ensure coherence between all the relevant agendas, including the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), the 2030 Agenda, and Agenda 2063. He pointed out that since IPoA also has a focus on structural transformation it was imperative to mainstream the three agendas together in Africa. He emphasized the importance of providing policy support; capacity building and institutional development support; developing a monitoring and reporting system to avoid duplications; and providing support for the development of statistical data in Africa. Mr. Acharya explained that the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) was working on building partnership and coherence, with all the Member States. He stressed that it is important to mainstream all the three programmes of action at the national level, and for the UN and others to support Member States in their implementation. On monitoring and reporting, he added that a tremendous amount of resources to report on these agendas is needed. Finally, he noted that OHRLLS will support the implementation of Agenda 2063, the 2030 Agenda and the various OHRLLS programmes of action (the Istanbul Programme of Action, Vienna Programme of Action and Samoa Pathway).

- In his statement, the representative of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recalled the integration of the cultural sub-cluster within the realigned Cluster 8 (Advocacy, Information, Communication and Culture) of the RCM in accordance with aspiration 5 of Agenda 2063. He briefed the meeting on their progress of work and the proposed set priorities and joint programmes and activities, including awareness-raising activities to encourage ratification of all appropriate international culture conventions; capacity building on the implementation of the various culture sector related conventions; and the provision of technical support and policy advice for Member States to successfully integrate the cultural sector in their national development plans. He further noted that UNESCO was already working on aligning its own programmes as well as joint AU programmes with Agenda 2063, through its Priority Africa Programme, notably the promotion and safeguarding of World Heritage Properties; prevention and combat against illicit traffic of cultural goods; protection of cultural heritage during armed conflict; as well as promotion of cultural and creative industries.

- The ECCAS representative stressed the importance of ensuring coherence and harmony in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She stated that there is a need for reliable and accurate data to monitor the progress in the implementation of the agendas, and the critical need to raise awareness of these agendas in Central Africa. She stated that in Nairobi in May 2016, the Deputy-Chairperson of the AUC provided an update on the implementation of Agenda 2063 where only three Central African countries out of 24 had initiated work, stressing that many countries have not taken ownership of this process. She further noted that the ECCAS Head has supported these efforts and there have been difficulties in taking ownership and disseminating the information. The representative noted an increasing number of countries that had joined the APRM still needed to be peer-reviewed She underlined the need to analyse causes of conflict, noting that in many countries, especially in Central Africa, elections have led to violence.
The representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) noted that Africa had played a large role in the negotiations leading to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. After expressing his appreciation for the commonalities with Agenda 2063, he listed three common challenges, including: (i) the required need for a shift from upward accountability to inward accountability; (ii) the need to translate the commitment of ‘leaving no-one behind’ into real concrete actions; and (iii) the risk of competition between different areas of work, such as food security and climate change. The representative noted that Africa is ahead of the curve with the NEPAD Agency providing inspiration at the regional level. He also mentioned three initiatives which the ECOSOC President has proposed, namely: (1) a meeting on agro-industry in February 2017 in Zimbabwe; a meeting on infrastructure development, (2) and industrialisation in April 2017 in Addis Ababa, (3) and the “Innovations for Infrastructure Development and Promoting Sustainable Industrialisation” meeting in New York in May 2017. He underlined the need to ensure that Africa’s best practice and experience are shared through these fora.

Amir Mahmoud Abdulla, the Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) re-emphasized the importance of recognizing the nexus between food security and peace and stability. He then briefed on the strong relationship between WFP, the AU and the NEPAD Agency by referring to a series of joint initiatives, such as the African Risk Capacity (ARC), cost of hunger studies and others. He also noted the launch of the Africa School Feeding Day (observed on 6 March annually), and he emphasised that WFP is ready to play its role in these initiatives. Regarding the RCM, he stressed the need to take this regional coordinating mechanism seriously. He welcomed the progressive manner in which Africa was the only continent to come together and ensure that the SDGs reflect their aspirations. Mr. Abdulla hoped that the APRM process will eventually lead to real peer-pressure between African countries.

The representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) briefed on the ongoing collaboration between UNDP and the AUC, the NEPAD Agency and the APRM. She emphasized the importance of building statistical data capacity to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of both Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. On “Silencing the Guns”, she noted that UNDP has been working closely with the AUC on consultations on peace-building and reconciliation, including gender and peace-building and integrating peace and security into national statistics institutions. Regarding Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda, UNDP has held meetings to examine the coherence between the two agendas and explore ways for their integrated implementation at the national level. Regarding the latter, she highlighted the importance of gender in economic transformation and noted that the UNDP’s 2016 Africa Human Development Report had focused on the cost of not integrating women in the economic system. Finally, she reiterated UNDP’s support to the RCM. On the APRM, she recalled that UNDP has been a partner for a long time and supported the call for all African Member States to accede to the Mechanism.

The Representative of The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UN-WTO) welcomed Africa’s efforts on diversification of the economy and moving away from commodity reliance. He noted that Agenda 2063 had among its main objectives the promotion of tourism for development in Africa through building strong partnerships in support of the African tourism sector. He noted the importance of establishing areas of research to enhance sustainable tourism for job creation in Africa. He highlighted the preparation of a joint publication on the role of technology in tourism in Africa to be published 2017. He also noted that the NEPAD Tourism Action Plan remained as the core strategy of the AU on tourism. Taking into account continental and global challenges, he noted the availability of UN-WTO to support joint resource mobilization activities and stimulate closer cooperation and partnership with the private sector. He also emphasized UNWTO’s readiness to strengthen co-operation with the African RECs, such as the ongoing activities undertaken jointly with UNECA and Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) to strengthen tourism systems. Regarding the latter he announced that an introductory workshop will be organized
in February 2017. Finally, he noted the importance of activities related to wildlife conservation, branding Africa, the development of a continental tourism strategy and the need to mainstream tourism in Agenda 2063.

- On the subject of development financing, the representative of the World Bank noted that despite a lot of partners’ financial support, Africa did not have adequate resources to implement all of the continent’s priority needs. She then recommended the promotion of partnerships with the private sector to draw investment to the continent and noted that the World Bank has been supporting the establishment of an enabling environment for business. She also noted the important role of the APRM in this context to reduce risk or perceived risk of doing business in Africa. The World Bank is trying to de-risk investments and encourage private investors to invest in large infrastructure projects. On domestic resource mobilization, the representative stated that the World Bank has been helping to put in place tax regimes to maximise domestic resource mobilization and stem illicit financial flows from the continent. Regarding data and statistics, she underscored the need to coordinate efforts in supporting capacity building in this area in Africa.

- The representative of the United Nations Global Compact, a convenor of the private sector and investors, briefed the meeting on its mandate regarding partnerships. The representative noted key opportunities to attract private sector investment in Africa: young population and demographic dividend; low industrialization; and transformation of the African economy and inclusive growth. She highlighted that the corporate sector could strongly support the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, as expressed by 50 corporations during the Private Sector Forum in September 2016. She added that the type of companies in Africa which embrace sustainability is growing. The representative acknowledged that de-risking is a challenge and noted that companies do not only want to
finance, but wish to be considered as partners. She then underscored that Global Compact wished to strengthen the relationship with African regional organisations and OSAA to incentivize the private sector to come on board. She announced that the Global Compact will be consulting with African organizations in the preparation of its 2017 work plan to ensure that both agendas become a reality in Africa with the private sector on board.

• The representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) expressed the organisation’s commitment to work in RCM-Africa’s Cluster 4 on labour and employment creation. He then stressed that youth employment was a core challenge nowadays and that addressing it is a prerequisite for peace and stability in Africa. In this regard, he noted that the AUC, UNECA, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and ILO have announced a major partnership on youth in Africa to promote youth employment as a policy priority, with technical support, leadership, and enabling conditions at the supply and demand sides. He added that as the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection was launched during the UN General Assembly in 2016, it was important to implement its regional component as well, including the work of Alliance 8.7, a grouping of multi-stakeholders which focuses on combatting human trafficking, forced labour, modern slavery and child labour in all forms.

• The representative of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) noted that partnership and collaboration will save money and identify opportunities for greater overall impact. Noting that it is critical to work more closely together, the representative explained that joint planning is very important to enable synergies and produce better outcomes. She noted that the AU and the UN need to oversee the activities of the RECs in particular, and advise partners on potential partnerships and synergies, avoiding competition between UN entities over resources.
Some of the panel members responded to the contributions from IDTFAA members:

- Mr. Mekideche, Chairperson of the APR Panel of Eminent Persons said he wished to strengthen APRM’s collaboration with the Global Compact on corporate governance for enterprises. Regarding the ILO, Mr. Mekideche noted that APRM could collaborate with ILO on the role of youth in informal markets as well as the social rights of workers in order to promote transparency in Africa.

Mr. Mekideche of NEPAD Agency, recalled that they presented a report on de-risking infrastructure projects in September 2016 at the NASDAQ, the American stock exchange to mobilise Africa’s institutional infrastructure investment community, including African pension and sovereign-wealth fund. The event explored potential funding for the 16 PIDA projects, including lending, soft loans and grants, to name a few, and strategic ways to mobilise sovereign-wealth and pension-fund capital. He referred the meeting attendees to the 16 projects which could be reviewed at the following website: www.pida.org.

- Mr. Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, re-emphasized that statistics are important and that Africa continues to face a large capacity challenge in this area. He noted that there are enough frameworks, however, the collection of national statistics is a sovereign issue and therefore capacity needs to be built at the national level. He added that the coordination of the UN system is vital in this matter, and that results will not be achieved without adequate statistics. For the AU and African Member States, he said that it will also be important to accord high priority to statistics and make it a sovereign issue so that it receives adequate budgetary resources.

- Mr. Abdelaziz, USG and Special Adviser on Africa, noted in his closing remarks that there could be more coherence and coordination between the two agendas taking their ambition into consideration. He highlighted that Agenda 2063 superseded the 2030 Agenda in timeframe and ambition, whereas the 2030 Agenda represents international global compromise. Nevertheless, he advocated that both agendas be synchronized and that it is important to collaborate and work harder through the RCM structure. He noted that UNESCO and OSAA take their roles seriously as cluster leaders, and that others should do the same, and that different clusters should improve their inter-cluster communication so that overall information sharing between the UN and AU is enhanced. He stated that PAIDA is a plan that has been approved and worked out by the UN System and the AUC, and that the African Group in New York needs to get PAIDA funded and approved by the UN General Assembly. He added that this may be challenging because the UN is already facing a large budget constraints for financing the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Abdelaziz noted that there is need to unpack Agenda 2063, and have every partner focus on a certain area that the AU would like the UN to concentrate on. Regarding the APRM, he advocated for universal accession to the mechanism in Africa as this would really strengthen the mechanism. He also responded to the comment by OHRLLS on the importance of linking the different programmes to include the LDCs, LLDCs and the SIDS and work on ways and means of how they can be self-supportive. Mr. Abdelaziz announced that OSAA will be working more collaboratively with OHRLLS on these issues. He also noted that data and statistics was raised by many speakers as an essential priority. He commended the ECOSOC President for his initiatives that focus on Africa in 2017 and added that OSAA looks forward to working together with ECOSOC on the preparation of these meetings.
D. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- The United Nations agencies and other development partners should focus on Africa’s regional flagship projects and development priorities as key entry points for the partnerships.

- The work of the RCM structure and the NEPAD Agency are essential to the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These structures and institutions need greater collaboration from the UN system agencies and other international partners.

- In African LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, it is critical to ensure coherence in the mainstreaming and implementation of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 and the Istanbul Programme of Action, Vienna Programme of Action and Samoa Pathway.

- PAIDA should become the cornerstone for collaboration between the UN and the AU in the future, as the Ten-Year Capacity Building Programme (TYCBP) expires 2016. It is important for the UN General Assembly to adopt PAIDA and promote the linkages with Agenda 2063.

- Illicit financial flows could finance a considerable proportion of Africa’s ambitious agenda, and therefore these funds need to be urgently tracked, stopped and recovered. The UN should implement the recommendations of the Mbeki Report.

- Following the adoption of the decision on self-financing of the AU in July 2016, it is important to support the AU to ensure that Member States meet their commitments and accelerate effective implementation of the two agendas -- 2030 and 2063.

- The APRM is an important and effective instrument to promote good governance and peace and stability in Africa. Its relevance and utility would grow if it became a mechanism to which all African Member States accede. To support the APRM, it is essential to strengthen national mechanisms and invest in the peer review processes.

- New partnership designs should feature measures which encourage the participation by the private sector as partners. It is important to support the establishment of an enabling environment, such as de-risking strategies used for infrastructure projects.

- Strengthening the capacity of national data and statistical institutions in Africa should be an absolute priority for the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

- The AU and OSAA should collaborate with ECOSOC President’s events on agro-industry in February 2017 in Zimbabwe, and on infrastructure development and industrialization in April 2017 in Addis Ababa, in preparation for the ECOSOC Special Meeting on “Innovations for Infrastructure Development and promoting Sustainable Industrialisation” in New York in May 2017.
In 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the global blueprint for ending poverty, hunger and inequality; improving access to social services, such as education and health; building strong institutions and partnerships; and taking action on climate change and the environment. Similarly, at the continental level, African leaders adopted Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan as the roadmap for Africa’s structural transformation. These mutually reinforcing and complementary agendas underscore the nexus between peace, security, good governance and sustainable development; thereby reaffirming that there can be no peace without development, and no development without peace and good governance. Therefore, there is a need for collaborative and sustained strategic partnerships to advance Africa’s peace and security priorities. The partnerships will also explore the important nexus between peace, security, development, good governance and respect for human rights.
A. OPENING SEGMENT

The event was co-chaired by Mr. Abdelaziz, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa and H.E. Mr. Ismael Gaspar Martins, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Angola to the UN, Member of the UNSC and Chair of the African Group for the Month of September. In his opening remarks, Mr. Abdelaziz reaffirmed that there can be no peace without development, and no development without peace and good governance. He noted that this relationship was captured in SDG Goal 16 of Agenda 2030 - “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.” Similarly, Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063 also highlighted “a peaceful and secure Africa” with mechanisms for peaceful prevention and resolution of conflicts functional at all levels, he added.

Mr. Abdelaziz noted that these mutually reinforcing agendas identify a range of factors that give rise to violence, instability, insecurity and armed conflicts. He stated they reflect the paradox that while African countries are experiencing continued growth, they also face challenges of inequality, poor governance, high youth unemployment, terrorism, unconstitutional changes of government and electoral winner-takes-all culture to name a few. The consequence, he noted was, these challenges lead to unrest and conflict that drain human and financial resources that are much needed for development. Mr. Abdelaziz also highlighted two important AU roadmaps to realize peace and security, namely the African Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap (APSA) (2016-2020); and the Roadmap for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020. He emphasized that strong partnerships were important for realizing the goals of these critical roadmaps given their accelerated implementation timelines.

The co-chair, Mr. Martins, underscored that 2014 was a year of reference where the Presidential Statement 2014/27 was adopted, and where the UNSC noted the importance of partnerships, calling on relevant UN entities to help achieve the vision of a conflict-free Africa by 2020. He also noted the increased cooperation between the UN and the AU in addressing conflicts in the continent, such as the UN and AU joint efforts to restore peace and stability in Somalia.

Mr. Martins highlighted that a key lesson from this partnership is that leadership, political will, and respect for the sovereignty of African countries must be considered, while consensually pursuing UNSC interventions. He said that in some situations this was not respected and can lead to adverse consequences, such as the crisis in Libya where the UNSC failed to take into account the AU, which led to tragic results in the country. Similarly, he mentioned the example of Burundi where the UNSC adopted resolution 2303 in July 2016 to deploy police observers without the consent or the cooperation of the Burundian government. He also spoke of the work of the A3 Group that coordinates positions in defense of decisions taken by the AU and affirmed his strong defense of dialogue and preventive diplomacy as the most suitable methods of preventing and finding solutions for conflicts.

H.E. Mr. Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson, AUC, reaffirmed the points highlighted by the co-chairs regarding the need for strong partnerships. He added that while the number of conflicts on the continent has declined since the 1990s, the nature of the threats to peace are now different. He said that several efforts are being made to address insecurity challenges while recognizing the different patterns crime, conflicts and terrorisms have taken. He also noted that distress migration, transnational organized crime, and armed militants are all a shared global problem. Therefore, he said, no institution or organization can singlehandedly tackle the issues of peace and security without strong partnerships and cooperation.
Mr. Mwencha noted that the AUC continues to push and support the 2016-2020 APSA Roadmap as a political means of resolving conflicts. He said that APSA underscores the critical element of coherence and coordination across all its pillars and between the AU, the RECs and the Regional Mechanisms as well. He underscored this collaboration has been critical for harmonized actions such as consultations, taking common stands and speaking in one voice as well as advancing Africa’s collaboration with partners to avert and address conflicts and causes of instability in Africa and globally. He commended the work and the growing collaboration between the AU Peace and Security Council and the UNSC in addressing security concerns. He expressed his hope that with the Joint UN-AU Framework for an Enhanced Partnership on Peace and Security, this relationship will strengthen in terms of synergy, consultations, intelligence sharing and even in training and enhanced conflict prevention and management, especially in the areas of early warning and conflict prevention.

Finally, Mr. Mwencha highlighted that in July 2016, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU took a bold decision on self-reliance of the Union which also includes a peace and security budget during the 27th AU Summit. He cited that the Peace Fund is expected to collect $65 million annually from each of the five regions through an imposed import levy of 0.2 per cent on eligible imports. He emphasized the need for support and partnerships for the AU to adequately finance its peace keeping operations to make it responsive and agile in addressing conflicts.

H.E Mr. Amr Aboulatta Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the UN delved into the patterns of peace and security challenges that Africa is grappling with, which he observed had become much more complicated in the last few years because of inter-related crises, consequences of climate change, and trans-boundary threats such as terrorism, organized crime and human trafficking. Moreover, he noted, weak state institutions, state fragility, and the lack of economic development all underscored the interlinkage between peace, stability, good governance and socioeconomic development.

Mr. Aboulatta noted that the AU and the RECs have proven their political willingness to tackle the continent’s crises when they acted as first responders before transitioning to UN peacekeeping operations in the Central African Republic, Liberia, Mali, and Sierra Leone. He noted that while the willingness is there, the AU still needs partnerships and financial support to effectively carry out these missions. It is important for this support to be systematic and to evolve from the current ad-hoc arrangement to more predictable, flexible, and sustainable funding of African peace support operations.
H.E. Mr. Sergey Kononuchenko, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN stated that his country is making significant contributions to maintain peace and security in Africa. He noted that these efforts include developing strategies for resolving armed conflicts and defining the mandates of the UN peacekeeping operations in Africa. He underscored that the international community should promptly and effectively respond to the threats and challenges to security in Africa in partnership with and through express consent of African countries. He said Russia welcomed efforts to resolve crisis in Africa by Africans themselves, because Africans know the situation better than others and will customize their interventions to local specificities and mechanisms. He underscored the progress African countries have made in establishing the African architecture for crisis response, the central elements of which are the Peace and Security Council, the Continental Early Warning System and the African Standby Force.

The Ambassador and Head of the Delegation of the EU to the UN, H.E. Mr. João Pedro Vale de Almeida, elaborated on the historical, cultural and geographic partnership ties between Europe and Africa. He advocated that the Africa-EU partnership is critical for both continents and that their future is linked. Mr. Vale de Almeida highlighted that the EU and the AU have a good and long-standing relationship around conflict prevention and peacebuilding. He stated that the EU supports the AU and its RECs first and foremost through the Africa Peace Facility (APF).

Mr. Vale de Almeida mentioned that support to the APF has effectively contributed to enhancing AU capacities to prevent and react to crises and threats to stability. It has done so by strengthening the APSA with important tools and structures and initiatives, such as the Panel of the Wise, the Peace and Security Council, the Continental Early Warning System, and the African Standby Force, he added. He further noted that the EU's Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM) is used to support both civilian and military interventions such as the development, establishment and running of ceasefire monitoring and verification mechanisms. He referred to the examples of APF support such as for peacekeeping in South Sudan, where IGAD was provided resources to run the mediation process and AU's efforts mediate in the crisis in Burundi were strengthened.

Mr. El Ghassim Wane, UN Assistant Secretary-General for the Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO) emphasized that the very nature of threats such as extremism, make global partnerships mandatory because they cannot be tackled by one country, one organization or one region alone. He highlighted that the AU is a very important partner of the UN in confronting challenges to international peace and security; nine out of 16 UN peacekeeping missions are in Africa. He elaborated that these missions alone account for 83 per cent of all deployed
uniformed personnel and 86 per cent of the financial resources approved for UN peacekeeping missions. In addition, he underscored that as of July 2016, African states represented 20 of the top 30 contributors of uniformed personnel to UN peacekeeping operations, and that almost 50 percent of all uniformed peacekeepers come from AU member states.

Mr. Wane acknowledged the vital progress made in UN-AU cooperation on peace and security. He noted that UN Secretariat and AUC have strengthened their relationship – at the strategic level through the Joint Task Force twice a year, at the technical level through the Desk-to-Desk meetings. He highlighted that this partnership also includes daily working-level interactions, and monthly director-level communications. However, he added, the partnership can be further formalized in order to make it more strategic and predictable. He also underscored the need for this framework to include RECs and regional members, as well as the wider AU and UN families. He concluded his remarks by highlighting the critical need to effectively enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for regional organizations when they undertake peace operations under a UN mandate —as already recognized by the UNSC (Resolution 1809 (2008)).

B. FIELD-BASED REFLECTIONS

A number of high-level speakers responded with reflections based on their experiences in the field of working to promote peace, security and stability in Africa after the opening segment.

H.E. Mr. Ashraf Rashed, member of the Committee of Elders of COMESA commended the AU for working with the RECs to develop and strengthen Continental Early Warning Systems for conflict prevention. He highlighted the importance of mediation and how mechanisms such as the Pan African Network of the Wise (PANWISE) lend credibility to mediation and conflict resolution processes. He underscored that the lessons learned on the continent show that conflicts, which start in one country can have detrimental effects on a region by spilling over to neighbouring countries. He also noted that the nature of threats in current times show that instability in any region of the world can have a severe global impact, which is why partnerships to ensure stability are crucial for the whole world.

Mr. Rashed advocated that going forward; partnerships need to be strengthened for conflict prevention and early warning. He mentioned the COMESA Peace and Prosperity Index and how it aims to provide information on the structural drivers of conflict such as the economy, education, health, social development and the environment. He said such systems will truly be effective if early warning is linked with early response. He also underscored the importance of partnerships between the UN, the AU and the RECs to share information from early warning systems and the rapid deployment of preventive diplomatic missions before there is a physical breakdown of peace and security. In closing he noted the importance of avoiding duplication of efforts to effectively and efficiently use available resources.

Mr. Thomas Markram, Deputy High Representative for the Office of Disarmament Affairs, emphasized that an over-armed world is an unstable and insecure one. He underlined that disarmament is critical to creating a safer, more prosperous, more equitable and more respectful world. He said that over the past 10 years, the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) has conducted more than 130 activities to support African states on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. He said that the Centre closely works with the AU, through its Steering Committee on Small Arms and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration. He added that the Regional Centre also partners with African states to
provide practical training to prevent illicit flow of weapons to non-state actors and that the Centre aims to improve the physical security and stockpile management of small arms and light weapons from the Sahel to the Lake Chad Basin region.

Ms. Marie Chantal Mfoula, Deputy Secretary-General in charge of the Department of Physical, Economic and Monetary Integration at ECCAS, reaffirmed the REC’s commitment to promoting peace and security and highlighted the RECs achievements in post-conflict recovery efforts in its member states. She highlighted that despite limited resources, ECCAS continues to take concrete actions to make Central Africa a peaceful, more stable and more developed region of the African continent. She said that in this regard, significant progress has been made in the Central African Republic, where the General Secretariat and Member States continue to participate in the reconstruction and stabilization of the member state, including support for United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

Ms. Mfoula said ECCAS has maintained efforts in fighting threats such as piracy in the Gulf of Guinea as well as structural conflict prevention in the Lake Chad area and against proliferation and destabilizing accumulation of small arms and in security sector reforms in the region. She noted that several partnerships have enabled ECCAS to carry out its mandate and that all these partnerships need to be strengthened in line with the regional priorities. She said that efforts need to be matched with good coordination in the implementation of actions in order to avoid duplication. Such coordination, she concluded, needs a good resource mobilization strategy to ensure capacity building activities, information sharing as well as prevention and resolution of crises and armed conflicts.

Mr. Souley Hassane, Director for Peace and Security, Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) highlighted several challenges that were particularly relevant for CEN-SAD Member States such as narcotrafficking and migration. He noted in planning interventions Member States’ government structures should not be overlooked as they are directly affected by instability and know best how to defend their territories and protect their civilians. He also highlighted that opportunities for addressing root causes should not be neglected and that partnerships need to tackle these root causes by investing in education and job creation.

Mr. Shaka Kariuki, Partner and Chief Co-Investment Officer, Kuramo Capital Management, an investment management firm, underlined the need for partners and stakeholders to enable the private sector for promotion of economic development in Africa. Echoing the thoughts of other panellists on the need for simultaneous work on both goals of promoting economic development as well as peace and security in the continent, he reaffirmed the need to tackle root causes of insecurity such as a lack of job and education opportunities. He also provided insight into the investment environment in Africa and noted that Africa as an emerging frontier market is poised to deliver excellent risk-adjusted returns to investors. Mr. Kariuki said there were opportunities for new and emerging development partners as well as government and other stakeholders to engage with the private sector to encourage business development and increase capital flow in Africa. This in turn, he said will promote peace, security, and stability in the continent. He listed the areas of possible engagement as policy-making and implementation relating to industrialization of the economy, development of small and medium-scale enterprises, promotion of exports and foreign direct investment, and the expansion of trade.
The field reflections of the event were followed by an interactive session where participants made comments and asked questions which were posed to the panel. This included the following interventions:

- H.E. Mr. Mohamed Gibril Sesay, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for Republic of Sierra Leone emphasized the need to build partnerships for promoting religious tolerance and co-existence. He highlighted that conflicts now appropriate the substance and symbolisms of religion and that partnerships should engage religious leaders and adherents. He underscored that these partnerships must provide space and resources for tolerance and peace that exist within religious traditions to promote wider stability, peace and security in Africa. He also highlighted the need for strengthening partnerships, and for recognizing and promoting the contribution of women to peace, stability and inclusive sustainable growth. He emphasized the need to perceive Africa’s youth as assets for productivity and development. To conclude, he mirrored the views Mr. Kariuki, when he stressed the need for enabling the private sector for job creation by strengthening institutions.

- H.E. Mr. Ruslan Bultrikov, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the UN noted that it was critical for peacebuilding and sustainable development in Africa to achieve a greater internal coherence among its agencies and country teams on the ground, together with regional structures and organizations. He reiterated his country’s belief that Africa needs to widen the concept of peace and stability from state-centered security to a people-oriented security, and from military to non-military security. He noted the importance of interventions that comprise the broad concept of human security, including food, water and energy for all. He underscored that such a concept calls for greater cooperation with a wide range of organizations and regional groups to achieve the objectives of state-building, rule of law, good governance, protection of civilians, disarmament of combatants, security and justice sector reform. These, he noted, should be based on inclusive political processes.

- H.E. Mr. McCulley, Senior Advisor for African Affairs of the United States of America underscored that the United States remains committed to Africa’s peace and security and long-term prosperity, both through bilateral efforts and through multilateral and regional organizations to advance the goals laid out in both agendas 2030 and 2063. He noted his country’s strong support to peace keeping missions including the training of more than 27,000 peacekeepers with UN and AU missions in Africa. He highlighted several significant contributions in the realm of peace and security such as the Africa Peacekeeping Rapid Response Partnership (APRRP) which consists six key partners with targeted support for hard peacekeeping skills such as logistics, medical, engineering, and airlift.

The representatives from the Permanent Missions of Egypt, Russia, Turkey, and the Head of Delegation of the EU to the UN reaffirmed their continued support to peace and security on the African continent. They each highlighted their respective contributions to this end in the form of continued bilateral and multilateral contributions to national and regional institutions, financial and personnel contributions to peace keeping operations as well as training and capacity building programmes for African professionals working in the peace and security sectors.

D. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- There can be no peace without development, and no development without peace and good governance. In this respect, it is important to support the full implementation of the two AU roadmaps, the African Peace and Security Architecture Roadmap (2016-2020) and the Roadmap for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020.
• There is an increased level of cooperation between the UN and the AU in addressing conflicts in African countries. A key lesson from this partnership is that leadership, political will, and respect for the sovereignty of African countries must be taken into account, while consensually pursuing UNSC interventions.

• Given the transversal nature of the threats to peace and security, including terrorism and violent extremism, solutions must be found both globally and locally. In this respect, there is a need to systematically and consistently engage civil society organizations and other national and regional actors on the ground, including through government funding for civil society.

• Maintaining stability requires a policy which advocates balance between peacekeeping and conflict prevention. Investments in good governance and for addressing the root causes that trigger conflicts need to be balanced with investments in peace keeping operations. In this context, partnerships also need to be tailored to address unique sub-regional challenges such as extremism, narcotrafficking, pirates and migration that are more pressing in some sub regions than in others.

• Financing for peace operations needs to be predictable in order to respond to the volatile nature of unfolding crises. The AU has increased its contribution to peacekeeping operations in terms of personnel and the commitments by its Member States to increase financial contributions to these operations. However, financing prolonged missions has been a challenge for the AU in the past. To counter this, a systematic coordination framework is needed based on comparative strengths of different stakeholders, which would make peace operations more responsive and effective in restoring and maintaining peace.

• Given the commitment of the AU to finance 25 per cent of the cost of its peacekeeping operation, strategic support is needed from the international community and the UN to cover the remaining 75 per cent. This will be crucial for effectively enhancing the predictability, sustainability, and flexibility of financing for African peace support operations.

• Partnerships should promote religious tolerance and also capture the potential of Africa’s youth, recognizing them not as threats but as assets for productivity and development. Furthermore, the private sector needs to be engaged through supportive and transparent public institutions in order to create jobs to capture the youth dividend.
IV. HIGH-LEVEL EVENT: A RENEWED GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR ENTRENCHING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE RULE OF LAW IN AFRICA

Africa has pioneered efforts, policies and initiatives to strengthen the rule of law and good governance, including the APRM, but more support is required by traditional and new partners to fully realize the potential of Africa’s efforts in this area. Partnerships between Africa and its partners in development play a key role in creating synergies, bolstering and expanding good governance efforts, resolving capacity and overcoming resource constraints of African stakeholders, including the RECs. Thus, local, national and regional African actors have all built partnerships on political, economic, corporate and socio-economic bases with a multitude of actors - from the UN to traditional and new and emerging development partners, civil society, academia and the private sector.

OPENING SEGMENT

The event was co-chaired by Mr. Abdelaziz, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa and H.E. Mr. Charles Thembani Ntwaagae, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN and Chair of the African Group for the Month of November. Mr. Abdelaziz, highlighted the increasing commitment of African leaders to enhance good governance and the
rule of law on the continent as reflected in the Solemn Declaration on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the AU and the AU’s historic and transformative Agenda 2063, adopted in January 2015. He further noted that both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 stressed the importance of good governance and the rule of law for achieving peace, security and development and called for forging strong partnerships to ensure the effective implementation of both agendas. Mr. Abdelaziz also emphasized the importance of strengthening and reshaping partnerships between African governments, civil society, the private sector, as well as with Africa’s traditional, new and emerging partners towards enhanced support for African efforts and instruments, such as the APRM and the African Governance Architecture.

Emphasizing that democracy, good governance, respect for human rights as well as the rule of law are central elements of the AU’s Agenda 2063, H.E. Mr. Charles Thembani Ntwaagae, noted that the event provided an opportunity to highlight Africa’s successes and challenges, and reflect on how Africa can fully implement Agendas 2030 and 2063. He noted, with appreciation, that many African countries had undertaken economic and political reforms to strengthen and mainstream the nexus between peace, security, sustainable development, the rule of law and human rights and stressed the importance of a holistic approach to the interlinkages between these pillars to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Mr. Ntwaagae further noted that strengthening existing governance institutions and creating new ones, where needed, is essential for creating an environment conducive for the implementation of both development agendas. Ultimately, he stated, efforts to ‘leave no one behind’ should be guided by the principles of equality, equity, implementation, participation, empowerment, partnership, synergy and coherence.
H.E. Mr. Oh Joon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the UN stressed the centrality of good governance and the rule of law for Agenda 2030 and 2063 and, in this regard, noted the role both concepts played in the economic and social development of the Republic of Korea, which had grown into the 13th largest economy in the world after having had a GDP per capita which was less than $100 in the 1960s. Mr. Oh pointed out that the development experience of the Republic of Korea indicated that countries often cannot achieve progress in economic and social development beyond a certain point without democratic governance. He added that quality education and human resources are also critical in attaining inclusive growth and sustainable development. Noting that governance and the rule of law require constant review and improvement Mr. Oh emphasized that the Republic of Korea achieved progress by creating responsible and accountable institutions and an effective justice system through many trials and errors.

Mr. Oh noted assistance and partnership with the global community was instrumental in the success of the Republic of Korea and that the country is now sharing its experience and knowledge through partnerships with others, including African countries. One such partnership is the Korea-Africa Forum that was launched in 2016 to mutually enhance cooperation for Africa’s development, peace and security, and poverty reduction by, inter alia, extending development assistance, launching job training programmes and sharing rural development strategies. Mr. Oh also said that the President of the Republic of Korea had presented a blueprint for comprehensive cooperation with Africa to the AU, including support to Agenda 2063, which is intended to contribute to, inter alia, enhancing good governance and the rule of law in Africa and the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Mekideche, Chair of the PR Panel of Eminent Persons, outlined some of the progress made by the APRM in creating conditions for enhanced partnerships for good governance. He noted that the APRM’s revitalization process was in the process of being concluded under the leadership of President Kenyatta, and that the process of the strengthening of the APRM’s Secretariat was also culminating under the guidance and leadership of Mr. Maloka. Mr. Mekideche noted that after having completed almost 20 reviews of African countries, the APRM has accumulated a lot of operational expertise of “what works and what doesn’t”. In this regard, he also highlighted the need for effective implementation and for including all segments of society in the assessment process.

Noting that the appropriate macro-level framework for action on governance is fleshed out in Agendas 2030 and 2063, Mr. Mekideche stressed that renewing a partnership to enhance governance and the rule of law in Africa involves a matrix-like approach that not only identifies and expands the number of partners but also identifies the desired collaborative programmes and content of such partnerships. In this regard, Mr. Mekideche called for greater involvement of African think-tanks, academic institutions, and the private sector as well as strengthening collaborations with strong economies, including China and Japan, as well as international organizations such as UNDP, ILO, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). He further emphasized the importance of greater financial support from partners to complement the growing contribution of APRM member states which was recently doubled to $200,000 per member per annum.

UNECA’s Mr. Hamdok noted that while good governance had long been perceived as an externally driven agenda, there was now a consensus that governance as well as effective and efficient “institutions that deliver”, are a necessary condition to achieve sustainable development. It was therefore no coincidence that both Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 recognize the centrality of governance for the realization of their goals and objectives. Mr. Hamdok stressed the
importance of assessing governance in an objective manner. In this regard, he noted the recent ten-year assessment of African governance by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation which found that overall governance on the continent had marginally improved although it had deteriorated in the sub-categories of personal safety and national security. Noting that Africa responded well to the governance challenge by establishing the APRM, Mr. Hamdok praised the mechanism as unique and valuable as it had generated a host of important lessons and created candid peer assessments at the level of Heads of State and Government of governance challenges and successes.

Mr. Hamdok also provided an assessment of the status of governance in the four APRM categories as follows; on political governance, he noted that the path to democracy is always long, non-linear and ‘home-grown’. He noted that Africa’s recent economic growth was at least in part due to the improvement of macroeconomic management and, and called for further improvements in this area, including with regard to public financial management and accountability, budget transparency, the role of oversight institutions, auditing and anti-corruption measures.

Moreover, Mr. Hamdok stressed the need to pay more attention to enhancing the role of the private sector in development and to improving corporate governance. He also called for greater emphasis on outcomes and results in order to facilitate the support of the population for democratization and good governance processes.

A. HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSANTS

Mr. Ntwaagae observed that in the efforts to “leave no one behind””, the high-level substantive segment should focus on implementation, equality (Equity), participation, empowerment, partnership, synergy and coherence. He opened the session by calling for a fruitful exchange of interventions and discussions on how Africa could entrench democracy, good governance and the rule of law in order to create an environment conducive for the successful implementation of Agendas 2030 and 2063.

Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Founder and Chairman of the Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development, in his opening remarks, alluded to two seminal reports written by former UN Secretaries-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Mr. Kofi Annan, respectively. Mr. Gambari noted that Mr. Boutros-Ghali’s report in 1992, “An Agenda for Peace”, laid out a post-Cold War agenda and argued that there could be no development without peace and emphasized the need for preventative diplomacy and conflict resolution. He noted that Mr. Boutros-Ghali followed up with another report in 1994 called “Agenda for Development”, in which he argued that there could be no durable peace without sustainable development. Mr. Gambari added that in 2005, Mr. Annan issued his own report, “In Larger Freedom”, in which he argued that there could neither be peace nor development unless people had the right to decide who would rule them and how, in strict observance of human rights. Mr. Gambari noted that international partnerships for development should be linked with SDG 16 which calls for building inclusive political processes and effective institutions for good governance.

Mr. Gambari noted that inclusive global partnerships advocated by SDG 17, should be built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people at the centre. He emphasised that all stakeholders had to be involved in ensuring good governance as “the business of governance was way too important to be left in the hands of politicians alone”. He stressed that when security and justice were recognized as jointly pivotal to global governance, the challenges of governance could be overcome. He stressed that when good governance was practiced in Africa, only then would the
AU’s Agenda 2063, in particular aspiration 7, which envisions “an Africa that is strong, united, resilient, peaceful and an influential global player and partner with a significant role in world affairs” be attained.

Mr. Gambari observed that partnerships to address the challenges of good governance and the rule of law, especially in Africa could only be achieved by the creation of “smart coalitions” of like-minded state and non-state actors, including from the civil society and the private sector. He added that this was also in line with the proposal made by the Commission on Global Security, Justice& Governance to advance a progressive global reform agenda that was consistent with the aims of SDG 16.

Mr. Gambari called for the building of strong democratic institutions with true separation of powers to serve as pillars for representative governments to ensure economic prosperity and social change. He also called on civil society organizations, think-tanks, human rights activists and the judiciary to join efforts to peacefully use the enormous powers they have in the process of good governance. Finally, Mr. Gambari called on the international community to support the AU, its regional organizations and partners to monitor and ensure that each government abides to the provisions of their respective charters on good governance and elections as well as other charters that promote the wellbeing of the African peoples at all levels.

Mr. Maloka, CEO of the APRM Secretariat, also underlined in a similar vein that no agenda for development could be implemented in a sustainable manner without good governance, peace and security. Mr. Maloka pointed out that Goal 16 of the UN Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and Aspiration 3 of the AU Agenda 2063 to build “An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law” both clearly demonstrated the importance of good governance. He noted that to date, the APRM had a membership of 35 African countries, 17 of which had been peer-reviewed and are at different stages of implementation of their National Programmes of Action (NPOAs). Mr. Maloka added that three member countries - Djibouti, Chad and Senegal - had completed their review processes while Kenya was pioneering the second generation APRM Review from 22 October to mid-November 2016.

Mr. Maloka informed the meeting that the APRM had demonstrated its mettle and real potential of playing a decisive role in “collective self-governance” particularly at the national level. He listed the most significant achievements as: the promotion of democratic and good governance building processes in Africa; APRM serving as an early-warning and conflict prevention instrument; propelling the re-emergence of developmental states in Africa; diagnosing systemic and structural issues facing most African states in their governance systems; serving as an innovative governance tool for improving governance in Africa; promoting credible African governance research; creating standards of governance and socio-economic development in Africa; showcasing countries’ best practices; promoting advocacy for good governance and better service delivery in the member countries; and promoting peer learning, capacity development and dynamic partnerships.

However, Mr. Maloka noted that despite the achievements recorded so far, the mechanism was faced with a few challenges. Mr. Maloka noted for the APRM to deliver effectively as a monitoring tool it was necessary to address the challenges to the smooth implementation of the NPOAs, which found expression in mobilisation of human, material and financial resources at the national level and the potential to ensure adequate coordination and capacity building across the entire governance system. Member States and the APRM require strong support from development partners. He thanked strategic partners - UNECA, UNDP and the African Development Bank (AfDB), as well as the individual countries, for their
support during the 13 years of existence of the APRM and called for more partners, such as the Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), Mo-Ibrahim Foundation and OSAA, to join the group in supporting the APRM.

Finally, Mr. Maloka noted that under the leadership of President Kenyatta, the current Chairperson of the APR Forum, the APRM was being revitalised after a period of difficulties. He added that within the framework of the revitalisation agenda, the APRM Statute and the APRM Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 were both adopted at the APRM Forum of Participating Head of State held in August 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya, on the margins of the TICAD VI Conference. He added that the APRM Secretariat and the APR Panel of Eminent Persons were also revisiting the APRM operational tools and methods in an endeavour to make the mechanism more attractive to the stakeholders and partners. Mr Maloka underlined that a strong partnership between African and international institutions was necessary to enable the mechanism to achieve the objective of good governance, peace and security in Africa.

Ms. Chinwe Esimai, Managing Director and Chief, Anti-Bribery and Corruption, Citibank Group Inc., USA, informed the meeting that Citigroup Inc., a large global bank, has approximately 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 160 countries and jurisdictions, 16 of which are in Africa. Ms. Esimai said that one of Citi’s core principles was its commitment to responsible finance and conduct that is transparent, prudent, and dependable. She explained that Citi’s Anti-Bribery and Corruption Program embodies this principle and had implemented policies, procedures, and internal controls reasonably designed to comply with anti-bribery laws in countries they operate in, including in Africa.
Ms. Esimai informed the participants that the bank’s Anti-Bribery and Corruption Compliance Program included: oversight and governance; a risk assessment process; communication and training; and independent testing processes. She added that bribery and corruption had no place at Citigroup, and this was evident in their dealings in African countries, which are increasingly clamping down on corruption and bribery. To conclude, Ms. Esimai stated that Citigroup was engaged with African governments and the private sector in respective African countries in a conversation on development and enforcement of laws and regulations. She also added that Citigroup was using technology such “Tech for Integrity” to address gaps and find solutions in fighting bribery and corruption in countries in which it operated.

B. INTERACTIVE SEGMENT

Specific contributions during the interactive session included the following:

- H.E. Ms. Koki Muli Grignon, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya observed that strengthening the rule of law was central to achieving the vision of the AU for a peaceful continent with strong growth and rising per capita income across the continent. In this regard, she added that Kenya advocated for strengthened partnerships to promote good governance in Africa in four main areas, namely: democracy and political governance; economic governance and management; corporate governance; and socio-economic development. Ms. Grignon noted that the rule of law could not exist without a transparent legal system. She added that she was proud to report that Kenya was on track to fulfilling its obligations espoused under Goal 16 of the SDGs, which is to build effective and efficient justice institutions, and the promotion and protection of the rule of law.

- Mr. Bryan Silliman from the Association Atangana Contre l’oppression et l’Arbitraire (AACOA) stated that his organisation was committed to the promotion of human rights and the fight against arbitrary detention and injustice. AACOA is a support group of lawyers, journalists and representatives of civil society committed to the rehabilitation of Michel Thierry Atangana, a French national of Cameroon-origin, who was imprisoned in Cameroon for 17 years for allegedly embezzling funds. Mr. Silliman pointed out that Mr. Atangana was present in the meeting today thanks in large part to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD). He added that Mr. Atangana was no longer alone, in the 7-square meter cell where he spent over 17 years of his life, because concerned international citizens cared about justice and the rule of law. Mr. Silliman added that in Opinion No. 38/2013, WGAD found Mr. Atangana’s detention to have been arbitrary on three separate grounds. It also found that he was held in “inhuman conditions, without adequate ventilation and unable to communicate with the outside world or his family.” He was however released in February 2014, following a Presidential pardon by H.E. Paul Biya, President of Cameroon. Mr. Silliman noted that Mr. Atangana thanked the UN – particularly WGAD, President Francois Hollande of France, the U.S. Department of State, and all human rights organizations and individuals who supported him. Mr. Silliman commended President Biya for beginning to implement the Working Group’s recommendations and forming an Inter-Ministerial Commission to resolve the financial negligence that resulted in his detention. Finally, he noted that Mr. Atangana had vowed to promote the legacy of former South African President Nelson Mandela, who once stated that “to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others”. He also stressed that repairing injustice in full will send a positive and constructive message for a brighter future for tomorrow’s Africa.
• H.E. Mr. Mohamed Gibril Sesay, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Republic of Sierra Leone, stated that in order to entrench good governance and rule of law in Africa, informal systems be it economic or otherwise need to be recognised and analysed. Mr. Gibril Sesay also noted that a need to renew partnerships to build capacities for mechanisms that support access to courts and other centres for the redress of marginalized groups, especially women. He emphasized that this included support for processes that made courts less threatening and friendlier to marginalized people. He informed the meeting that Sierra Leone had inaugurated a legal aid board to support the marginalized to access justice. Mr Gibril Sesay observed a state should be responsive in various tiers of government – national and local. He added that there is a need to renew partnerships for sustaining jurisprudence of rights over jurisprudence of executive or plutocratic supremacy, and that this involved making access to justice less dependent on the whims of the powerful and the rich, and more about the promotion of rights and the delivery of services.

• Ms. Delois Blakely, community mayor of Harlem queried on how could the “brain drain” from Africa be reversed and how human resources could be best utilized most efficiently in Africa. Ms. Delois also asked the panellists on the need to harvest corporate companies to be part of “the Africa brand”; and on how Africans and the Diaspora together could utilise youth skills and knowledge.

• The representative from Morocco suggested African countries should be enabled to exchange best practices and lessons learned. He noted that approaching good governance and rule of law was not just a matter of combating corruption and respecting human rights, but also implementing policies and strategies that place value on citizens and their relationship with the State. The representative emphasized that valuing the role of citizens within the state was what was missing in Africa, and that current policies on peace and security, which entail excessive military spending, are mismatched vis a vis spending on social-economic issues.

• H.E. Mr. Michel Tommo Monthe, Permanent Representative of Cameroon observed that at every level, the rule of law and good governance was critical in any functioning state. He noted that there was an on-going and progressive effort in Cameroon to entrench the rule of law and good governance. Mr. Monthe alluded to the comment made by Mr. Bryan Silliman with regards to the incarceration of Mr. Atangana, noting that Mr. Atangana unlawfully exploited resources of the state and was therefore brought to justice. He added that throughout the entire process, Mr. Atangana had reformed and was subsequently pardoned.

• H.E. Mr, Kelebone Maope, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Lesotho asked about the measures being taken by Citi Group Inc. to combat bribery and corruption. He informed the meeting that in the early 1990’s, his government had engaged aggressively in fighting corruption and anti-bribery schemes by multinational corporations, but realised that it was a very expensive fight. Mr. Maope claimed that his government could not compete financially with multinational companies from the west who were bribing junior government officials and alleged that powerful heads of multinational corporations based overseas are the real culprits. He claimed that once an investigation was initiated to track these senior officials in developed countries, they would dissolve their multinational companies, and/or change their names to make it difficult to prosecute. Mr. Maope asked how Citi Group Inc. was dealing with the prosecution of senior officials suspected of partaking in corrupt practices, including in bribing local officials in Africa. He also queried how African countries could strengthen their institutions to combat corruption and entrench good governance practices. He noted that proceeds from tax avoidance and illicit financial flows were kept in safe havens in the West and that African countries found it very difficult to repatriate the stolen wealth. He asked
if technology advancements, particularly in detecting crime, including forensic science labs, could be transferred to African law enforcement agencies, to help detect criminal activities.

- Mr. Rashed Ashraf, representative of COMESA, observed that the Africa Governance Architecture and the APRM are key African-owned initiatives devised to help African countries practice good governance through peer learning and sharing of best practices. Mr. Ashraf noted that Africa had moved from the days of non-interference to non-indifference, wherein, African leaders now called for reforms through peer reviews. He informed the meeting that COMESA was also battling with corruption and had put in place some measures to fight corruption, money laundering and illicit money transfers. Mr. Ashraf added that he had led a team to observe the elections in Gambia, which was deemed peaceful. He also informed the meeting that COMESA contributed to pre-election missions, with the aim to identify areas which required support, through its Electoral Commission Management bodies. To conclude, he noted that COMESA was actively engaging civil society, having instituted its accreditation instrument to incorporate civil society organizations into its decision-making processes.

- Mr. Reza Mapar, representative of UN Department of Public Information (DPI), informed the meeting that public procurement accounted for 30 per cent of GDP in developing countries. He noted that an efficient and transparent public procurement process was essential for transparent government and PPPs. Towards this end, Mr. Mapar informed the meeting that the UN Development Business facilitated by DPI provided a platform that supported efficient and transparent procurement processes. He added that currently, international finance institutions such as the World Bank and the AfDB, as well as governments and UN agencies, published their procurement notices on the DPI online platform to reach a diverse and global private sector audience looking for opportunities worldwide. Mr. Mapar noted that most of the procurement notices and contract awards that were published on the DPI platform were related to development projects which were being implemented around the world in different regions, including in Africa. He observed that he would like to see more private sector involvement and subscription from African governments, who could use the DPI platform to publish their procurement notices on different matters, especially in development projects. Mr. Mapar said that DPI worked with different agencies and bodies, including with the UN Secretary-General and high level panels on women empowerment, to give them access to the DPI procurement database.

- Mr. Joseph Atta-Mensah, representative from UNECA acknowledged the success of some African countries with economic transformation, despite their lacklustre performance in entrenching good governance practices. He commended the work of the APRM in strengthening democratic practices across the continent and called for more space for the media to hold governments accountable to their citizens. Mr. Attah-Mensah noted that illicit financial flows out of the continent were detrimental to socio-economic development and reiterated the need to hold multinational corporations accountable, particularly in tax evasion. He commended the work being done by the AU and its Member States in implementing the African Mining Vision.

- Representing the New Future Foundation, founded by Ms. Blakely, Ms. Ruth Blakely asked how the AU planned to partner with the US government and other western nations to welcome home the descendants of Africa, particularly the youth. She stated that as African descendants living abroad, they want to partner with the continent and have their voices heard. Ms. Blakely noted that the Diaspora have innovative ideas to share, but need support from the US and African governments to channel their views on issues pertaining to Africa’s development. She also called for more resources to enable the diaspora in the West to partner better with their African counterparts.
Several members of the panel responded to some of the questions and comments that were raised:

- Responding to the question of how to deal with corruption, and the proceeds thereof, Ms. Esimai stated that individual accountability has been a long-standing problem in bribery and anti-corruption enforcement. She noted that the powerful benefit most from corruption while the disempowered suffer the most. Ms. Esimai referred to the Yates Memo, issued by the (now former) U.S. Deputy Attorney General Ms. Sally Yates which provides guidance for investigation into corporate wrongdoing and addressed individual accountability. Ms. Esimai stated the memo was a significant development in the fight against anti-bribery and corruption as it ensures individual accountability from the very beginning of the investigation. Ms. Esimai informed the meeting that companies were expected to provide as much information as possible about individual actors engaged in corrupt practices resulting in which cooperating companies received good credit for providing useful information against corrupt practices. She added that USA took the issue of bribery seriously and targeted senior officials as a result.

- Following on the same subject, Mr. Mekideche observed that anti-corruption efforts should target both local perpetrators and foreign multinationals bribing local officials. He also commended UNECA for its work in supporting the AU in the implementation of the African Mining Vision and the management of natural resources in Africa. Mr. Mekideche said that it was important to add value to raw commodities through beneficiation and create jobs for the local industries from which the raw materials were extracted. On the involvement of the Diaspora in Africa’s development, he noted that it was important to carry out an assessment exercise of Diaspora expertise to contribute towards Africa’s inclusive and sustainable development. Mr. Mekideche added that the APRM utilized African capacities from within the continent and outside to carry out its work. He noted that the African Diaspora was critical to the work of the APRM, particularly due to their skills level, experience and expertise.

- Mr. Hamdok also addressed the issue of corruption in Africa, and stated that multinational corporations represented, by far, the major cause of illicit financial flows and tax avoidance in Africa. He commended the excellent work done by former South African president, Mr. Thabo Mbeki on illicit financial flows, as this put the issue at the heart of the agenda in Africa and the rest of the world. Mr. Hamdok spoke about the research done at the UNECA which showed that 60 to 65 per cent of the illicit financial flows were attributed to multinational corporations operating in Africa, while 30 to 35 per cent of corruption was linked to counterfeiting criminal activities, and only 5 per cent was linked with corrupt government officials. To conclude, Mr. Hamdok noted that Africa welcomed good and honest companies that helped to develop the continent and paid their fair taxes.

- Mr. Gambari observed that illicit financial flows should be repatriated by all necessary means, including through bilateral agreements with recipient countries. He added that the work of the UN Organization for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was also important in combatting corruption and illicit financial flows out of Africa. He noted that when tackling corruption, there should be a system of rewarding probity. On the work of the APRM, Mr. Gambari observed that the process of sharing good practices among African countries was innovative and working well for Africa. On the Diaspora, he noted that the AU had instituted a Commission dedicated to the Sixth Region of Africa, which included all Africans overseas, and therefore their contributions towards Africa’s peace, security and development efforts were welcomed by the AU. Mr. Gambari noted that Africa should take the lead in addressing its own governance challenges, including in the areas of peace and security, human rights and the rule of law.
In closing, Mr. Abdelaziz, observed that there was a need for a multidimensional approach in dealing with governance issues in Africa, including in managing diversity, promoting inclusivity and addressing discrimination against the women and youth. He suggested that the findings of the Mo Ibrahim report, which has some very good recommendations, including the need for efficient use of Africa’s resources for the implementation of its goals and aspirations should be taken aboard. Mr. Abdelaziz emphasized that it is important that national resources were used for inclusive economic growth and development to ensure poverty reduction, in line with Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. He noted that this could be achieved by fighting corruption and combating the illicit financial flows of resources. Mr. Abdelaziz added that strengthening the rule of law through effective judiciary systems was critical to secure peace and stability in Africa. He underlined that without good governance and the rule of law, inclusive economic growth and development would be unattainable.

Mr. Abdelaziz also noted in his conclusion that the role of the institutions, including the AU, the APRM, and the African Governance Architecture were critical in strengthening good governance practices across the African continent. He also stressed the need for African ownership in dealing with multilateral partners, and the need for sharing good governance practices through the APRM. On Africa’s dealing with multi-stakeholder partners, Mr. Abdelaziz underlined the need for technology transfer, particularly through the private sector. Finally, on the role of civil society, he stressed the need for their involvement in holding governments accountable, particularly in combating corruption and monitoring illicit financial flows.

C. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Foster a holistic approach to the linkages between peace, governance and development in order to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063.
- Develop a multidimensional approach to tackle poor governance, manage diversity, promote inclusivity, address discrimination, as well as implement regional and continental governance initiatives.
- Ensure that governance initiatives generate concrete positive results for all citizens and that governance and the rule of law are routinely assessed, reviewed and improved.
- Strengthen partnerships between African governments, academia, civil society, the private sector, as well as Africa’s traditional, new and emerging partners towards enhanced support for African efforts and instruments, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism and the African Governance Architecture.
- Create smart coalitions and inclusive governance partnerships that promote a vision of governance that places people at the centre.
- Enhance the role of the private sector in development and in improving corporate governance.
- Mobilize the international community to enhance its support for African countries, the AU and African regional organizations in entrenching governance and the rule of law on the continent.
- Address the challenges to the smooth implementation of the APRM National Programmes of Action, including the gaps in availability of human, material and financial resources at the national level.
- Complement the growing contribution of ARPM Member States through increased financial support from development partners.
• Expand the sharing and application of good governance practices and experiences in Africa.

• Promote the equitable management of national resources, strengthen judiciary systems, and combat illicit financial flows to help eradicate poverty and foster sustainable development.

• Use a multidimensional approach – bilateral and multilateral agreements as well as partnerships with civil society and the private sector - to combat illicit financial flows, in line with the High-Level Panel Report on Illicit Financial Flows report.
V. HIGH-LEVEL EVENT: LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND AGENDA 2063 IN AFRICA

It is imperative to have an integrated approach for the implementation of both Agenda 2030 and 2063 in Africa. Fast-tracking the implementation of both Agendas will require on the one hand the domestication and mainstreaming of agendas’ goals, targets and indicators into regional, national and local development plans, and on the other adequate resources and an effective monitoring mechanism to promote accountability and partnerships.

A. OPENING SEGMENT

The event was moderated by Ms. Cristina Gallach, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. H.E. Mr. Frederick Makamure Shava, President of the ECOSOC and Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the UN, opened his remarks by underscoring the importance of promoting the synergies between the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He underlined strategic partnerships in support of Africa’s development need to be aligned with African priorities. He also presented ECOSOC’s plans to contribute to the strengthening of existing
partnerships for sustainable development and building new ones in the year ahead. In this regard, Mr. Shava noted that infrastructure and industrialization are core components of the envisioned structural transformation of African economies, and therefore ECOSOC has developed a special initiative on infrastructure and industrialization in 2017. Furthermore, Mr. Shava elaborated on the role of the HLPF in the monitoring and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the multi-stakeholder partnerships which ECOSOC develops in this space. He also noted that the UNMM has a comprehensive mandate to review progress towards Africa’s development and that there would be opportunities for the UNMM and the HLPF to collaborate. In his conclusion, Mr. Shava expressed his hope that the council will use an innovative approach to address the challenge of building partnerships through the institutional mechanisms in place such as the ECOSOC financing for development; the Integration Segment; Technology and Innovation and the Youth Forum among others.

H.E. Mr. Mayaki, CEO of the NEPAD agency, shared NEPAD’s analysis that there is 90 per cent convergence between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals and that of Agenda 2063 and 69 per cent between targets of the respective agendas. He also highlighted several selected continental strategic frameworks which are part of Agenda 2063 and the SDG targets, including PIDA; CAADP, the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (STISA) and the Strategy for Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA). Mr. Mayaki noted that Agenda 2063’s First Ten-Year Implementation Plan is the continental vehicle for implementing the SDGs so that integrated reporting on Agenda 2063 and the SDGs is ensured, which would prevent incoherence and minimise the reporting burden on African countries.

H.E. Mr. Geir O. Pedersen, Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN, shared his perspective as the Co-Facilitator of the Preparatory Process for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development that led to the adoption of the AAAA on the key components of the SDGs financing framework. Mr. Pedersen noted that inclusive economic growth, strengthened by partnerships which mobilise all possible resources defines Africa’s route to sustainable development. He advocated for improved domestic resource mobilisation and challenged international donors that more capacity development and support should be provided in this area. He also noted that this effort includes mobilising the private sector, as a source for investments that will easily outpace traditional ODA. As a final point, Mr. Pedersen underlined the issue of illicit financial flows, and that more international action should be mobilized to address this issue.

The Permanent Representative of India to the UN, H.E. Mr. Syed Akbaruddin, highlighted similarities between India and Africa, in terms of population size and the fact that both India and Africa have young populations (with many people under 35). Mr. Akbaruddin advocated that the conventional model of cooperation needs to be replaced with more innovative and forward looking forms of cooperation. He noted that cooperation should focus on empowering people, and maximise the potential of Africa’s human resource capacity instead of merely focussing on natural resources. He explained that this is what India-Africa cooperation focuses on, for example through collaboration and exchanges of training institutions with emphasis on renewable energy, information technology, disaster management, climate change adaptation and cyber security. In addition, Mr. Akbaruddin noted that trade between India and Africa has multiplied exponentially in the last 14 years, and is predicted to reach $ 100 billion next year, which demonstrates the growing engagement between India and Africa.

Another component which Mr. Akbaruddin underlined was the exchange of best practices as part of SSC, especially those that draw on new technologies which have the potential to dramatically change cooperation. He elaborated on a financial
inclusion experiment in India, which demonstrated that new technologies can help achieve SDG targets and goals while at the same time save the government money, which could be of interest to African countries as well. He recommended that the UN and ECOSOC benchmark best practices and ensure that there are effective platforms for exchanging such experiences.

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the UN, highlighted some of the challenges which affect the African continent, namely; economic and social, security, and financial challenges (related to debt & illicit financial flows). He made the point that Africa, with many young independent nations, experiences change at an accelerated rate compared to other regions in the world. Mr. Khiari noted that this makes Africa unique and justifies why partnerships are so crucial to the continent’s progress. He underlined the importance for partners to focus on their accountability in partnerships and underscored the importance of the role of the AU in this regard.

Following Mr. Khiari, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN, H.E. Mr. Yoshifumi Okamura, noted the importance that Japan attaches to strengthen its partnership with Africa through the TICAD process. He explained how Japan aims to approach its partnership with Africa in new ways that diverge from the traditional approach, as TICAD encourages development in Africa by ensuring that the continent is equipped to address its own challenges. Mr. Okamura especially emphasised the importance of ownership, and noted that “Africa should own their own plan for development”, and that partnerships between Africa and Japan and others should be based on national ownership. He further explained the framework of TICAD VI, and the priorities of the Nairobi Declaration as the outcome of TICAD VI, in which Japan has committed $30 billion over three years (until 2018) in PPPs which focus on quality infrastructure, building resilient health systems and laying the foundation for peace and stability.

The final speaker in the Opening Segment, Mr. Marcos Bonturi, Special Representative of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to the UN, elaborated on the partnerships which the OECD fosters with Africa, such as the Africa Economic Outlook with the AfDB, the OECD Africa Investment Initiative (with the NEPAD Agency), revenue methods (to improve domestic resource mobilization), and initiatives with RECs in Africa, such as ECOWAS. Mr. Bonturi explained that the OECD indeed focusses on the areas that were earlier identified by the Permanent Representative of Norway, namely aid, taxation and investment. He noted that the OECD works with donors to ensure that aid is directed to the most vulnerable, while on the issues related to taxation, the OECD works closely with Africa on dealing with tax avoidance and illicit financial flows. Lastly, Mr. Bonturi also announced the upcoming Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation meeting in Nairobi in late November 2016 as an important international opportunity to strengthen the global partnership for Africa’s sustainable development.

B. INTERACTIVE SEGMENT

The session exhibited a dynamic interactive discussion with various contributions and questions from attendees and several rounds of responses by the speakers.

- A representative of civil society emphasized the importance of inclusive growth and industrialisation for Africa’s sustainable development and asked the speakers to further discuss industrialization, access to technology, finance and global markets in the African context. Furthermore, he also requested for clarification and ideas on how
African youth can be effectively engaged in the continent’s development. Another participant underlined the point made by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan, on national ownership as a pre-requisite for Africa’s development, especially in the areas where financial issues need to be addressed, emphasising the role of foreign direct investment and trade.

In response to the first set of questions, Mr. Mayaki, mentioned that inclusive sustainable growth is about jobs, and Africa has seen good economic growth rates while unemployment remained high, which he said explains part of the problem. He therefore argued that a focus on job creation is paramount. Mr. Mayaki noted that industrialization and urbanization are linked and that Africa needs to leapfrog in both areas with the help of science and technology, as this will enable Africa to catch up with other regions. Lastly, Mr. Mayaki added that good governance is a critical issue, as even countries with good national infrastructure such as roads, education, and information technology and so on can, be confronted with governance challenges which destabilise the society.

Mr. Bonturi added that education is very important for addressing inequality. In addition, he explained that the OECD--Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is trying to build bridges to link donors with the private sector and other parts of society, while also reaching out to new countries to join the DAC, such as the Gulf countries and to engage in deeper partnerships with Brazil, India and China.

In his response to the question, Mr. Pedersen underlined the need for jobs and a progressive tax system. He referred to the Nordic model where countries spend their taxes on public education, health and infrastructure. He observed that investing in education is an instrument to get out of poverty, rather than an investment which a country can only afford once it is rich.

Mr. Okamura also responded and noted that Africa’s proximity to Europe can often have negative consequences, explaining that African children go to European schools and that Africans choose European hospitals over their own, which disincentives investments in Africa’s own universities and hospitals. He argued that democratic developments will aid this process, as democracy is a vehicle through which citizens can demand investments in their own education and health systems.

- Ms. Delois Blakely, Community Mayor of Harlem, echoed the views of the Japanese representative stating that ownership is indeed imperative. She noted that “everyone wants to sell Africa everything” but Africa’s own supply and demand function should be respected, and she argued for a more holistic approach that does not flood African countries with external support and advice but rather builds on Africa’s own capabilities.

- The representative of the South-South Centre in Nigeria stated that education does not open doors for all African youth, and that the youth are currently not engaged or given an opportunity to address their own problems.

- The UN-Habitat regional representative raised the issue of infrastructure and industrialization which will be a point of focus during the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) conference in Quito (October 2016), and he explained that this also featured prominently in the Common African Position on Habitat III.

- The Deputy Permanent Representative of Uganda to the UN reflected on some of Africa’s main achievements over the last 50 years. He explained that Africa presents great opportunity, an emerging market with a lot of business
opportunities. In addition to external partnerships, he also advocated for increased intra-African trade, which East Africa is demonstratively improving.

- The Deputy Representative of Kenya to the UN added that the exchange of experiences and lessons has been very rich during Africa Week 2016, and she queried on how these exchanges could be made more “practical, regular and structured” to help the implementation process forward. She asked the organisers about the way forward between Africa Week 2016 and 2017’s event. She also reiterated Mr. Bonturi’s point regarding the important upcoming meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation which the Kenyan government will be hosting in November 2016 and invited all participants to attend this Conference.

- The representative of the UNECA agreed with the DPR of Uganda that there are a lot of initiatives in Africa which should be celebrated, such as ‘Mpesa’ in Kenya and the CFTA. He also advocated for policies that invest in tertiary education, address the needs of youth now (not in the future) and those that prioritise women empowerment.

- The Zambian representative picked up on the theme of women and girl empowerment raised by the UNECA representative and noted that this subject is of paramount importance. This speaker also introduced a companion from the private sector who represented a company which aims to avail technology from military aviation systems that could be utilized by African countries for civilian purposes, to leapfrog in some of the areas pointed out by Mr. Mayaki.

- The representative of the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the UN inquired on how Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development can be appropriately be addressed within countries in Africa. The speaker also reminded the meeting that Morocco will be hosting the COP 22 Climate Change Summit as well as a preparatory meeting of African Heads of States in advance of the Summit.

The representative of the New Future Foundation inquired how the African Diaspora, as Africa’s sixth region, could be more included in African affairs. He also requested the speakers to elaborate on how mobile money, and blockchain technology (A blockchain is a data structure that makes it possible to create a digital ledger of transactions and share it among a distributed network of computers. A prominent example is the bitcoin digital currency) could benefit the African continent and how multinational companies can be held accountable for their work in Africa.

During the last round of responses, Mr. Mayaki re-emphasised that many policy areas are a priority for Africa and that therefore the focus should be on integration rather than prioritisation. In response to Morocco’s question about translating the agendas at the national level, he mentioned the following three processes: (i) countries need to invest in their national plans which are the cornerstone for their development; (ii) national plans needs to be linked with the different strategies of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs; and (iii) a gap assessment needs to indicate where any gaps between the national agenda and the other two agendas exist and how those gaps can be addressed. Mr. Mayaki also stated that ODA should be catalytic and that it must be targeted at capacity and technology development.

Mr. Bonturi said that peer-learning opportunities can help countries improve their national plans. Mr. Bonturi also seconded the success of East Africa’s regional integration which was mentioned by the DPR of Uganda, and said that East Africa’s success should be mainstreamed throughout Africa. On the topic of financial inclusion, Mr. Bonturi said that it should be combined with financial education so that people are not taken advantage of, and he commended India for its leadership in this area.
Mr. Akbaruddin responded to the question on blockchain technology by explaining that currently the technology is of ‘neutral value’; it provides transparency and will help with illicit flows but he also added that that there are a lot of security issues related to the technology which have not been resolved.

In conclusion, Mr. Abdelaziz, responded to Kenya’s question regarding the follow-up on Africa Week 2016 and how to take forward the recommendations of the important discussions that took place during the week. He explained that the Africa Week will be culminated with the UN GA debate on development of Africa, to be held on 14 October, which provides an annual forum to reflect on the causes of conflict, the situation for durable peace in Africa, the NEPAD Agenda and the UNMM. He encouraged countries to reflect on the recommendations from these discussions in their statements made at the UNGA debate. He also explained that the recommendations and key points from the discussions during the Africa Week will inform the Secretary-General’s reports, and subsequently the draft resolutions submitted to the UNGA through intergovernmental negotiations that allow Member States to incorporate ideas about ways and means of promoting Africa’s development. He concluded by indicating that OSAA will provide a summary of the Africa Week discussions on its website, including the key recommendations.

C. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

• Partnerships for the effective implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 in Africa should recognise and promote the synergies between the two agendas.

• The synergies between the UNMM—established by the UN GA Resolution 66/293— and the ECOSOC, the HLPF and other relevant forums under the Council’s purview, should be ensured.

• Relevant UN bodies, such as the ECOSOC must consider establishing a platform to share and disseminate experiences and best practices that have proven to be working and successful in advancing development objectives, particularly in developing countries.

• The SDGs and First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 should be monitored in tandem to reduce reporting burden and promote coherent and integrated implementation.

• All possible resources should be mobilised to implement and monitor the SDGs and Agenda 2063; this specifically includes improving national taxation systems in Africa, private sector investment and curbing illicit financial flows through effective international collaboration.

• Africa’s strategic partnerships must align their support with Africa’s development priorities as identified in Agenda 2063. New and emerging partners must break conventional paradigms of engagement, and forge new and innovative partnerships in Africa that maximise the strengths each partner brings to the table (for example human resource capacity or new technologies). These new partnerships should be recognised and celebrated.

• The role of the AU in the rapprochement of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 should be heightened to ensure the complementarity of these regional and global instruments.

• National ownership should be one of the most important concepts to guide international partnerships for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, by focusing on strengthening capacities at the local, national, regional and continental levels and fostering innovative solutions to development challenges.