



Opening Speech

Dr Balgis Osman Elasha
Chief Climate Change and Green Growth
African Development Bank Group
The Launch of the Africa Sustainable Development Report 2025

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Honorable Ministers, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon and thank you for making the time to be here today. It is a privilege to join you on this significant occasion.

It is with great honour and a profound sense of purpose that I deliver these opening remarks on behalf of the African Development Bank, as we launch the 2025 Africa Sustainable Development Report—a comprehensive assessment of our continent’s remarkable journey towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa’s Agenda 2063.

This report, produced through a collaborative effort involving the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, UNDP, and the African Development Bank, provides a clear lens into our shared progress and the formidable challenges that remain.

As Africa approaches a critical five-year milestone, it is essential to acknowledge the continent’s achievements—such as being the host of 10 out of the 20 fastest-growing economies globally, making significant reductions in maternal and child mortality, and implementing successful health campaigns. These accomplishments are a testament to our resilience, innovation, and collective efforts.

However, despite these advances, the road ahead remains complex. Climate change—manifesting through droughts, floods, and rising sea levels—is intensifying vulnerabilities across our continent. Water scarcity, environmental degradation, fragile health systems, and socio-economic inequalities continue to

hinder our development trajectory. Addressing these issues requires urgent, coordinated action and sustained commitment.

Over the past decade, the African Development Bank has been a pivotal engine of Africa's transformation. Our High 5s—Lighting Up and Powering Africa, Feeding Africa, Industrializing Africa, Integrating Africa, and Improving the Quality of Life—have directly impacted the lives of over 565 million people. The Bank has invested more than \$102 billion, with over half allocated to infrastructure—roads, rails, ports, digital networks, health, water, and sanitation—fueling economic growth, regional integration, and inclusive development. These investments are not just financial commitments—they are catalysts for sustainable progress, unlocking opportunities for millions of Africans and positioning the continent on a path toward achieving both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Our support for regional integration has been especially vital. Through strategic investments in infrastructure supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the Bank is fostering economic cooperation that aims to unlock Africa's vast potential, create millions of jobs, and promote inclusive growth. We believe that regional integration is fundamental to transforming Africa into a more resilient, prosperous, and self-reliant continent.

Moving Forward and as we reflect on this report and the collective efforts of the past decade, I invite all stakeholders, governments, development partners, the private sector, and civil society to renew their commitment to Africa's sustainable development. The African Development Bank stands ready to continue supporting this transformation, by investing in our people, infrastructure, and green growth, advocating for global reforms, and fostering innovative financial solutions.

Together, through strategic partnerships, unwavering determination, and shared vision, we can overcome the challenges before us and realize Africa's immense potential, a continent that is resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.

Thank you.
