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Statutory issues**Report on United Nations system support for the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development programme****I. Introduction**

1. The present report provides a summary of the support extended by agencies within the United Nations system working in Africa to the African Union and the African Union Development Agency, for the period April 2021–March 2022. It covers support for the implementation of African Union priorities at regional, subregional and national levels, including those set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union. In that context, chapter II of the report presents an overview of the assistance provided through the newly established Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa within the framework of the United Nations-African Union Development Framework for the Implementation of the 2063 Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Chapter III highlights major activities of programme 9 of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), together with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Department of Global Communications, in their joint work to deliver for Africa. Lastly, section IV presents an initial report on ongoing efforts deployed by the ECA and the African Union Development Agency to operationalize the recently renewed and revised memorandum of understanding between the two organizations in accelerating integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

* E/ECA/COE/40/1.



II. Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa and the African Union-United Nations Development Framework for the Implementation of the 2063 Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

2. The Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa, which was launched in December 2020 under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General, is a revitalized regional collaborative architecture that brings together 25 United Nations entities across the continent, working on sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including addressing key challenges that transcend country borders and that are of regional concern while supporting United Nations country teams at the country level, through the provision of policy advice, technical assistance, advisory services, advocacy and, in some cases, programmatic support.

3. The Platform initially comprised seven opportunity and issues-based coalitions clustered around cross-cutting policy issues and three inter-agency task forces established in response to the recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations, entitled “Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: implementing a new management architecture for improved effectiveness and strengthened accountability” (A/72/492/Add.2), aimed at promoting joint action and coordination on the knowledge management hub, system-wide reporting and common back offices. Serving as the main vehicles for the substantive work of the Platform, the opportunity and issues-based coalitions pool United Nations system-wide expertise in an agile and timely manner to respond to changing regional and country needs. They are demand-driven and results-oriented, avoiding both siloed approaches and overlaps. An eighth such coalition, on regional initiatives and strategies, was formally established at the beginning of 2022, to focus on the cross-border nature of the regional initiatives for the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes.

4. The last two years of the United Nations reform agenda have been productive, despite the adverse environment brought about by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and growing global instability in security and socioeconomic conditions affecting lives and livelihoods globally, regionally and nationally.

5. Over the period April 2021–March 2022, the Platform provided agile and well-focused support to United Nations resident coordinators, country teams, member States and regional partners by coordinating the United Nations regional response to cross-cutting challenges across Africa.

6. The following sections highlight selected activities of each of the opportunity and issues-based coalitions for this reporting time frame.

A. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 1: strengthened integrated data and statistical systems for sustainable development

7. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 1, which is co-convened by ECA and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), focused on the design and launch of a joint United Nations-African online portal on data for development. The resulting continental platform was developed and launched on 13 September 2021 on the margins of the General Assembly. The launch was attended by over 220 participants. It serves as a one-stop shop repository which captures high-quality data and evidence on fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 from all African countries. It is the first undertaking of its kind designed to give statistical substantiation of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

8. The platform presents comprehensive practical data sets, which will be of particular assistance to governments and partners in monitoring progress, making sound decisions, evaluating outcomes and impacts, carrying out in-depth analyses and progress assessments at the target and indicator levels, and linking these with national development plans.

B. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 2: ensuring effective and efficient macroeconomic management and accelerated inclusive economic transformation and diversification

9. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 2 is co-convened by ECA, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and, for the period under review, its focus was on operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area, which presents an invaluable opportunity for African countries to deepen regional integration, foster intra-African trade and promote a universal trading system, boosting the exports of developing countries and removing trade barriers for least developed countries.

10. The importance of regional integration is all the more evident in the wake of the COVID-19 shock, which is already triggering a reconfiguration of global value chains. The major challenge to attainment of the goal of coalition 2 has been the eruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, which not only altered the way in which programme deliverables were being implemented, but also delayed operationalization of the Agreement establishing the Free Trade Area. At this stage, UNCTAD, ECA and UNDP are working together with other agencies, including the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area to support African countries in such areas as negotiation of tariff schedules, rules of origin and offers on trade in services, ratification, implementation and proper functioning of the Agreement.

11. In addition, UNCTAD and ECA provided capacity-building support on policies and trade in services in finance, tourism and transport sectors in Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria and Togo. UNDP also collaborated with ECA, UNCTAD and ITC in building the capacity of women-led small and medium-sized enterprises operating in West Africa to understand the African Continental Free Trade Area rules and identify market opportunities.

C. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 3: harnessing demographic dividends through investments in youth and women's empowerment (health, education and employment) for sustainable development

12. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 3 is co-convened by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNFPA and the World Health Organization (WHO). During this period, the coalition conducted several policy briefs and studies to estimate the direct or indirect effects of COVID-19 on the demographic dividend pillars, including the documentation of best practices in Africa related to those pillars prior to and in the context of COVID-19. In that process, 29 initiatives were collected and documented, with a view to informing policy actions and investments on building forward better to ensure a green, resilient and inclusive recovery.

13. Several working papers were also developed on the relationship between demography and peace and security in the Sahel, including six country case studies, two statistical modelling exercises and a synthesis book, and the organization of national consultations and a session on demography, peace and security on the

margins of the twentieth edition of the Bamako Forum held from 20 to 22 May in Bamako, on the theme: ‘Sustainable development and human capital: results and operational priorities for the transition in Mali’.

14. The coalition also worked on an innovative approach to census implementation in the context of COVID-19 in Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana, with support from UNDP, ECA, UNFPA and the World Bank. The project consisted of inviting independent monitors from several countries across the continent to participate in an exercise on independent monitoring of the census process. The exercise enabled Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana to benefit from the expertise developed in other countries and their experts also gained additional skills to be applied back in their home countries.

D. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 4: leveraging new technologies and enabling digital transitions for inclusive growth and development

15. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 4, which is co-convened by ITU, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and WHO, identifies priorities, opportunities and gaps, promotes flagship initiatives, provides regional perspectives and strengthens regional partnerships. In 2021, the coalition focused on leveraging existing assets of the United Nations system in the continent to support countries in their efforts to harness, adopt and sustainably scale technological and digital innovations for inclusive growth, skills development, job creation and overall socioeconomic development.

16. The coalition engaged with the United Nations country teams in the following 17 countries across Africa: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Its wide range of engagements with the country teams included the provision of technical assistance for the design of digital strategies, as was the case for Malawi; the assessment of policies on technological solutions; analytical support to address gaps in Sustainable Development Goal data; capacity-building on digitalization and the use of big data; and data analysis for socioeconomic recovery.

E. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 5: fostering climate action and resilience

17. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 5, which is co-convened by FAO, UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme and UNESCO, was established in order to drive work by the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa on fostering action on climate change, strengthening natural resources governance, building resilience and enabling energy transitions for sustainable development.

18. In 2021, the coalition developed a matrix of the programme of action for the period between 2021 and 2025 to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in Africa. Working closely with the African Union Commission, the coalition assessed a progress report at both regional and country levels, covering Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, against the African Union programme of action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa.

19. In addition, the African working group on disaster risk reduction was set up to implement the programme of action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa. The eighth session of the Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and the seventh high-level meeting on disaster risk reduction were successfully held from 16 to 19 November 2021 in Nairobi. These two meetings concluded with the adoption of key outcome documents, including the Nairobi Declaration, by ministers and their representatives responsible for disaster risk

reduction to accelerate the programme of action for the implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa.

20. At country level, support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture of Eritrea for the development of a disaster risk reduction framework for the agriculture sector. Other countries included Eswatini and Zambia. Coordinated support was also provided to member States through the partnership for assessing and developing capacities for disaster risk reduction set up under the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative.

F. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 6: peace, security, and respect of human rights

21. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 6, which is co-convened by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UNDP, provides targeted support for efforts to enhance the capacity of the African Union, the regional economic communities, regional mechanisms and member States in conflict prevention, addressing the root causes of conflict and sustaining peace.

22. In this context, OHCHR worked with the African Union Commission to develop an infographic on women's participation in peace processes in Africa. The infographic shows progress in implementing the groundbreaking resolution 1325 (2000) of the Security Council on women, peace and security, adopted in October 2000 in response to a raft of lessons learned over the previous decade or more on the peacekeeping and peacebuilding agenda at national, subregional and continental levels, and lays out State obligations to boost the participation of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. In addition, UNODC, alongside OHCHR and the Group of Five for the Sahel, organized a two-day workshop in Nouakchott to boost the participation of women in security operations in the Sahel. UNODC also established a network of 1,800 young activists, known as "weavers of peace", as part of the implementation of the joint programme for peace and justice under the Peacebuilding Fund in cross-border regions of Cameroon, Chad and Gabon, to make them agents in the consolidation of peace in the cross-border regions and the prevention of instability linked to illicit trafficking.

23. In July 2021, ECA, together with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the African Union Commission, organized the Africa regional review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in the region as part of support to operationalize the comprehensive regional prevention strategy for the Horn of Africa.

24. To help implement efforts to ensure compliance with international human rights, humanitarian law and enhanced protection of civilians, the coalition provided support to the African Union Commission and the regional economic communities on integrating human rights into their early warning systems. UNDP, in partnership with the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community, along with Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Tunisia, implemented interventions to address the challenges and bottlenecks associated with the ratification, local incorporation and implementation of African Union treaties and to help enhance the capacity of the African Union and member States to implement ratified treaties.

G. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 7: forced displacement and migration

25. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 7, which is co-convened by IOM and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), serves as a forum to mobilize rights-based advocacy to redress discriminatory practices directed at forcibly displaced and migrant populations, including in detention, both conflict and non-conflict and natural disaster settings.

26. In 2021, the coalition provided support to member States for the effective management of cross-border challenges, the strengthening of regional protection mechanisms, the promotion of socioeconomic inclusion and capacity-building. Its results included the provision of experts and organization of a convening forum to validate the African Union draft policy on preventing and countering the smuggling of migrants in Africa. A high-level panel discussion was held on migrant and refugee health in Africa at the complementary Regional Meeting of the World Health Summit, which was held in Kampala and organized by the African Union, IOM, WHO and other stakeholders.

27. United Nations system-wide regional support was provided for the ratification of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, adopted in Kampala in 2009 with 40 signatures and 31 ratifications. Coalition 7 also coordinated the launch of the regional migrant response plan for the Horn of Africa and Yemen 2021–2024, aimed at addressing the humanitarian, development and protection needs of migrants along the eastern migratory route, including transiting migrants, stranded migrants, settled migrants and returnees between the Horn of Africa and Yemen, through a multi-partner, multi-year response. The plan brings together over 40 partners from the member States, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, United Nations partners and international and national non-governmental organizations.

28. An inter-agency, inter-pillar predictive analytics project was initiated to enhance coordination on data and strengthen preparedness for the growing and interconnected risks, including those of climate change, in the Sahel. The project galvanized a consortium of 18 world-leading research partners, working on the key drivers of vulnerability, across the triple nexus, with a particular focus on how climate change and other megatrends may contribute to new or exacerbated risks in the Sahel, using best practices in predictive modelling from different scientific disciplines.

H. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 8: subregional initiatives

29. Opportunity and issues-based coalition 8, on regional initiatives and strategies, was established in February 2022 to harmonize the political workstream of the regional development entities under the leadership of the special representatives of the Secretary-General and the special envoys operating on the continent. The coalition will be light and include an on-demand framework that will strengthen cross-pillar collaboration between the special envoys and special representatives working on critical political and related strategies on the one hand, and, on the other, regional directors of United Nations entities, working in subregions where such special envoys and special representatives are in operation. The objective is to spotlight the cross-pillar work of the United Nations in Africa by bridging political, peace, security and development streams. The coalition has been established to support the work of the special representatives and United Nations country teams and to provide them with an opportunity to harness the benefits of the nexus between their respective areas of work.

30. Through coalition 8, the United Nations response in Africa will be strengthened by making assets available to the United Nations development system to support the work of special envoys and special representatives of the Secretary-General in subregional contexts that are particularly appropriate for a United Nations response. This is also consistent with the Secretary-General's holistic conflict prevention vision underpinning regional strategies under implementation, and indeed with his report "Our Common Agenda".

31. Members of coalition 8 will be linked through regular high-level engagements, the conduct of joint assessment missions, and the provision of analytical guidance to other coalitions on emerging issues. Membership will be inclusive, rotational, multi-sectoral, multinational, service-oriented and country-focused. The special envoys and special representatives have insisted on the need to focus on the added value of coalition 8, while avoiding procedural redundancy and overlaps.

I. Annual meeting of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa

32. The annual meeting of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa took place on 28 February 2022 in Nairobi. It was chaired by the Chair of the Platform, Amina Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, and was also attended by the vice-chairs of the Platform, Vera Songwe and Ahunna Ezaikonwa. Other senior United Nations officials present included Cristina Duarte, Head of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Parfait Onanga Anyanga, Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union in Addis Ababa, and the regional directors of United Nations entities across Africa, who are members of the Platform.

33. The meeting deliberated on the progress made by the opportunity and issues-based coalitions and the task forces of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa in 2021 and the Platform's work programme for 2022 and considered the survey undertaken by the Development Coordination Office on the needs of the resident coordinators in African countries that could be met by the Platform. Based on an analysis of the results of the survey, the four principal issues in this regard are: data; climate action; macroeconomic frameworks and the looming debt crisis; and digital transformation. The key decision of the meeting was that these four areas would constitute the major areas of focus for the coalitions and the Platform for 2022.

34. Discussions on sustainable financing during this crisis have been very useful. The elaboration of the climate change-related priorities of the programme of action for the Sendai Framework in Africa has moved forward. African Continental Free Trade Area initiatives have been very ambitious and have also made good progress. The launch of the first data platform marks a key milestone, with high quality data now available for tracking progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

35. Where the Goals are concerned, there is urgent need to reflect on how Africa is faring. There have been moderate improvements owing – among other things – to the multifaceted impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The burning issue now is prevention: the continent needs to focus on its capacities to produce vaccines so that Africa becomes less dependent on other regions in the area of vaccine production. In addition, education, which is also an important part of the Common Agenda outlined by the Secretary-General, is pertinent for real transformation and investments at the country level.

36. On the economic front, there have been some shifts on gross domestic product and projected regressions on key macroeconomic indices. These will have implications for employment opportunities, with youth and women less likely to fulfil their roles in the economy under the impacts of the pandemic.

37. The risk of high debt levels for the continent is another area of concern. There is need to take another look at the financial architecture and implications for Africa,

building on the financing for development agenda. Political and security challenges on the continent are reversing some gains in the areas of democracy and rule of law. The situation is exacerbated by the growing climate crisis and recent reports show that impacts are worsening. Accordingly, the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will take place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, will be a critical opportunity for Africa to campaign for a fair deal for the continent in the realm of climate change.

38. On the demographic dividend, the situation of young people in Africa remains worrisome; they are anxious about the future and unsure of their roles in decision-making, which are yet to be defined. There is need to rekindle their hope, in line with the aspirations of the Common Agenda, at both economic and political levels.

III. Working together to deliver for Africa: highlights of major joint activities on United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

A. Delivering the Africa Dialogue Series together

39. The Office of the Special Adviser for Africa, ECA, UNESCO and the Department of Global Communications joined forces, together with the African Union Commission, as members of the preparatory working group for the organization of the fourth round of the Africa Dialogue Series, the signature event of the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa.

40. Launched in 2018, the Africa Dialogue Series is an interactive platform for policy and decision-makers, civil society representatives, experts and academics to debate challenges and opportunities for the African continent. Over time, the dialogues have become an important instrument for implementing the advocacy mandate of the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa at the global level and complementing consensus-building efforts by ECA at the regional level.

41. The flagship event took place over the course of May 2021, in conjunction with other events to mark "Africa Month", and was held under the theme "Cultural identity and ownership: reshaping mindsets". It was anchored on the theme for the year of the African Union: "Arts, culture and heritage: levers for building the Africa We Want". The overarching theme of the African Union and the Africa Dialogue Series was also anchored on aspiration 5 of Agenda 2063 and underpinned by multiple Sustainable Development Goals, such as Goals 4 and 16, regarding the promotion of a culture of peace and diversity.

42. The event started with a line-up of activities culminating in a three-day public policy forum focused on discussions and activities organized around three sub-themes, namely: sustainable peace for development: factoring in history; harnessing culture and heritage for economic transformation; and human capital: culture and heritage unleashing their potential.

43. The policy debates and discussions revolved around the issue of unlocking the transformative potential of culture for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and building back better, in particular after the pandemic. The panels and speakers shared their reflections and insights on how to tackle many of the challenges and introduced in-depth analysis and policy recommendations on addressing the new African realities within a cultural context.

B. Promoting the interlinkages between peace, security, human rights, humanitarian affairs and development

44. Africa has recorded commendable progress in the promotion of peace and security. There is growing evidence, however, that the threats posed by other sources of violence, such as the activities of armed non-State agents and rising levels of terrorism and extremism, have started to undermine and weaken the State structures. There is also a growing trend towards constitutional revisionism, with several countries having modified term limits. Social contestation has become more frequent, leading to the resurgence of coups. Many countries have witnessed protests, especially among young people, reflecting their growing discontent with political and economic exclusion. In the institutional and regulatory area in many countries, the human rights situation and access to justice, in particular for women, has not improved significantly.

45. It is against this sombre backdrop that the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa organized two online subregional workshops in partnership with ECA, the Department of Global Communications and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The first workshop for the subregions of Southern Africa and East Africa took place on 8 and 9 June 2021, while the second workshop for Central Africa, North Africa and West Africa was held on 10 and 11 June 2021.

46. The workshops formed part of activities implemented under the project funded by the United Nations peace and development trust fund with the aim of building the capacity of African policymakers to design and implement policies that promote the interlinkages between peace, security, human rights, humanitarian affairs and development. The workshops attracted a large number of participants from a wide spectrum of sectors, including ministries of finance, territorial administration, human rights, social affairs and foreign affairs, as well as representatives from African permanent missions to the United Nations in New York. The African Union, including the African Union Development Agency, and the regional economic communities also participated in the workshop along with United Nations entities.

47. In implementing the project, the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa administered a survey to African governments and civil society organizations aimed at identifying African perspectives on the interlinkages approach. Informed by the findings of the survey, a baseline assessment study was prepared on the degree of awareness and understanding of the interlinkages at the national level, from which a draft training manual has been drawn up and presented at the workshops. ECA also conducted three subregional studies on the interlinkages in North Africa; West and Central Africa; and Southern and East Africa, exploring and analysing the interlinkages between the development, peace and security, human rights, and humanitarian pillars with a view to promoting the synergistic, complementary and joined-up implementation of interventions.

48. The workshops, which included extensive discussions in plenary and breakout sessions on the subregional studies of ECA and country case studies, concluded that, in the light of the challenges and gaps highlighted during the discussions, more effort needed to be made in all humanitarian, human rights, development and peace and security sectors to achieve the aspirations of a peaceful, integrated and prosperous Africa that is driven by its people. The meeting validated the interlinkages approach yoking together development, peace, security, humanitarian affairs and human rights in reinforcing the inescapable reality that no single agency can deliver the totality of the responses required in Africa. There is need to harmonize existing strategies and frameworks that promote the interlinkages. There is also need to be inclusive, starting with local authorities and grassroots organizations to ensure enhanced transparency in organizations to make certain that actions follow policies when implementing the interlinkages approach.

49. Issues and recommendations related to humanitarian work, governance and the new dimension of climate change will be used to enrich the baseline assessment study and training manual, which will be officially launched at a global platform in 2022. The training manual will be converted into an online training course and will be accessible to all African member States.

50. The Office of the Special Adviser for Africa, ECA, the Department of Global Communications and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States are also planning to develop a module on the interlinkages approach in partnership with the Dakar-based African Institute for Development and Economic Planning of ECA to organize a training programme for targeted key African stakeholders in the course of 2022.

IV. Collaboration by the African Union Development Agency and the Economic Commission for Africa to accelerate integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

A. Memorandum of understanding between the African Union Development Agency and the Economic Commission for Africa

51. The African Union Development Agency and ECA signed a revised three-year memorandum of understanding in New York on 26 September 2021 at the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations in New York on the margins of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly. This important instrument was signed by the Chief Executive Officer of the African Union Development Agency, Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, and the Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Vera Songwe.

52. The memorandum identifies six areas of collaboration, namely: climate resilience and governance; environmental sustainability and natural resources management; sustainable energy, the energy-water-food nexus and the empowerment of rural communities; knowledge management and evaluation, and human and institutional development; science, technology and innovation; economic integration; macroeconomics and governance policy; and wealth creation and industrialization.

53. A workshop was also held on 20 and 21 January 2022 on the operationalization of the memorandum and its three-year workplan. The directors and heads of division of both institutions identified key deliverables over the first year of implementation to be monitored and evaluated with a view to achieving the stated strategic objectives in the context of both continental and global frameworks for the socioeconomic transformation and sustainable development of Africa.

54. On 22 January 2022, senior officers of the two organizations agreed on principles to be followed in giving effect to the relationship, including the proposed monitoring and evaluation framework. The directors of the various thematic priority areas agreed to further reduce the number of outcomes and related activities, in order to focus on the lowest-hanging fruit. Recognizing that there were thematic areas of convergence in addition to the institutional flagship programmes to be implemented under individual mandates, it was further agreed to launch technical consultative meetings. In the meantime, the designated focal points were asked to develop a road map and work plan to be finalized after bilateral consultations. This undertaking is still in progress.

55. The workshop recognized that, in terms of their regular budgets, both the African Union Development Agency and ECA were quite constrained in their ability

to intervene with efficacy and impact in all member States of the African Union. In serving the continent, both institutions have agreed to speak with one voice and to leverage the global dimension of the United Nations development architecture to advance the goals pursued by both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Thus, agreeing on areas of convergence based on the comparative advantages of both institutions for 2022, with a time frame and reporting process, will be critical to structuring the ongoing collaboration that has been formalized in the revised memorandum of understanding.

B. African Union Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Week

56. Since the first Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Week, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in 2015, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Week has evolved into a key forum for accelerating infrastructure implementation in Africa, but also forging links between infrastructure and the key development themes of regional integration, transformative economic growth and job creation. The Programme combines continental infrastructure initiatives and regional master plans in a coherent infrastructure investment programme with an implementation strategy and portfolio of priority projects. The second phase of the Programme's priority action plan covers infrastructure development in the transport, energy, information and communications technology, and transboundary water resources sectors.

57. As a member of the secretariat of the second phase of the priority action plan, ECA has been working with other United Nations agencies to support efforts by the African Union Development Agency and the African Union Commission to organize the seventh Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa Week, which was held in Nairobi from 28 February to 3 March 2022, under the theme "Putting Africa on a firm footing for recovery, growth, and resilience through infrastructure". The seventh such Week brought together project partners and engaged stakeholders and project owners in practical approaches to the realization of the Programme's projects and discussed financing strategies for the 69 projects under the second phase of the Programme's priority action plan.

58. As an African Union Development Agency partner and part of the regional landscape, ECA contributed to the discussions during the Week in the areas of, first, accelerating the implementation of the Single Africa Air Transport Market; second, the investment potential of the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia transport corridor to Central Africa and beyond; third, the African Continental Free Trade Area and the demand for transport infrastructure and services; fourth, enhancing climate resilience in projects under the second phase of the priority action plan of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa with the Africa Climate Resilient Investment Facility; and, fifth, the working session on infrastructure public-private partnerships based on initial findings of six country assessments, in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia.

59. In the communiqué adopted upon conclusion of the Week, participants applauded ECA for the support and asked the partnership to continue to provide technical support to flagship continental initiatives, in particular for the implementation of projects under the second phase of the priority action plan and flagship projects of Agenda 2063.

V. Conclusion: challenges and lessons learned

60. The Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa has made commendable progress. There is, however, need to align the priorities of the opportunity and issues-based coalitions with those identified by the regional coordinators and United Nations

country teams through the surveys that have been conducted by the Development Coordination Office and also by the African Union, thereby ensuring that the implementation of the United Nations regional reform agenda is in step with the development agenda of the continent and the member States.

61. The Platform should play a key role in ensuring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals; by working backwards, it should prioritize milestones to be considered each year, allowing no room to carry anything forward (unfinished business). It should focus on more planning, modelling and scenarios to assure more flexible responses. A particularly undesirable outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic will be any slowing in progress towards the Goals. There is also a need to energize key donors and partners.

62. Among the propositions set forward in the report “Our Common Agenda”, are opportunities for leveraging scale and ensuring more rapid implementation. The Platform can take on board some additional issues from the Common Agenda to be used to boost fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, such as social protection and the social contract and recalibrating the financial, peace and security architecture with a view to resolving complex conflicts. It will also be necessary to re-engage with young people and future generations by making use of stakeholders’ platforms to ensure that they are better positioned for future efforts.

63. The Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa has graduated from the construction phase and is now at the stage of consolidating ownership and focusing on how to deliver better, with speed and at scale. This will require a very clear road map and the enlistment of partnerships to deliver collectively and individually as the United Nations in Africa.
