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Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

High-level panel 1: From Africa to the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit: priorities to address multiple crises and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

Summary of the report on African progress towards achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

I. Introduction

1. The present report contains a summary of the performance of Africa with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the related goals of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, which underpin the theme of the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development: “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”. The 2023 high-level political forum will focus on progress made towards Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17. In the present report, the progress made by Africa in that regard has been measured against the corresponding targets of the 2030 Agenda and the indicators of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals, as set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution 71/313. Reference is also made throughout to the corresponding goals and targets of Agenda 2063, which are set out in its first ten-year implementation plan, covering the period 2014–2023.

* ECA/RFSD/2023/1.



II. Clean water and sanitation

Table 1

Sustainable Development Goal 6 and the related goals of Agenda 2063

2030 Agenda	Agenda 2063
Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Goal 1 – A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens Goal 7 – Environmentally sustainable climate and resilient economies and communities

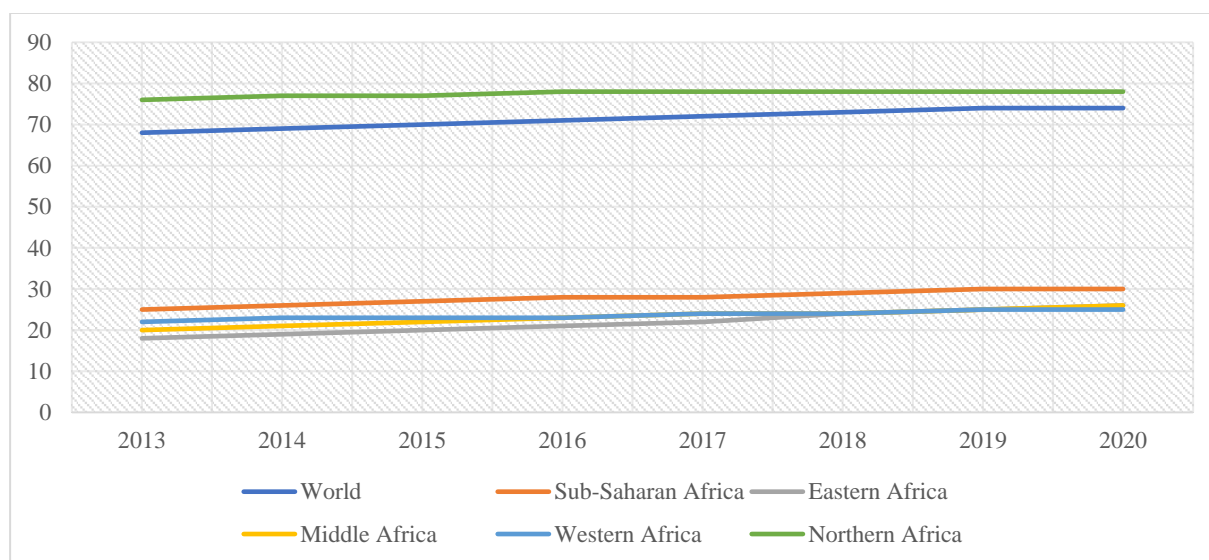
A. Target 6.1¹ and indicator 6.1.1²

2. Excluding North Africa, the proportion of the African population using safely managed drinking water services has improved only marginally since 2013, with reversals in some countries. The proportion of the sub-Saharan African population using safely managed drinking water sources increased from 25 per cent in 2013 to 30 per cent in 2020. This is still substantially below the global average, which stood at 74 per cent in 2020. By contrast, the corresponding figure of 78 per cent for North Africa is well above the global average (see figure I). Algeria, the Central African Republic and Zimbabwe have regressed on this indicator. Consequently, the continent is unlikely to achieve the related target of Agenda 2063 of reducing the proportion of the population without access to safe drinking water from its 2013 level by 95 per cent by 2023 (goal 1, priority area 4, target 2).

Figure I

Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

(Percentage)



Source: Statistics Division, 2022.

¹ By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

² Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services.

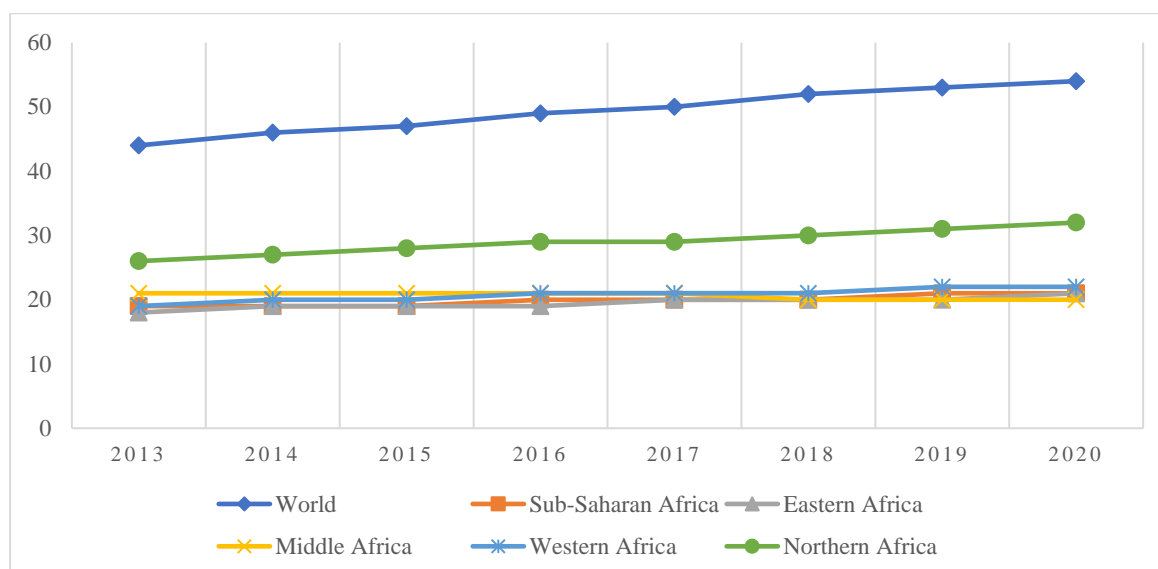
B. Target 6.2³ and indicator 6.2.1⁴

3. While access to safely managed sanitation increased globally, the proportion of the population with access to those services remained very low, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where access increased by a mere two percentage points over the eight-year period of 2013–2020 (see figure II). Progress was more significant in North Africa, where access increased six percentage points over the same period.

Figure II

Proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services

(Percentage)



Source: Statistics Division, 2022.

C. Target 6.4⁵ and indicator 6.4.2⁶

4. Compared with the rest of Africa, North African countries are at high risk of water stress. Water stress levels in North Africa reached 120.5 per cent in 2019, indicating a high probability of future water scarcity (figure III). Excessive water use can lead to the depletion and degradation of both surface and groundwater resources, compromising livelihoods and development opportunities for future generations. Among the North African countries, Morocco has relatively sustainable withdrawals of freshwater, while Libya has the highest water stress levels. With the exception of South Africa, water stress levels in most sub-Saharan countries are below the world average (32 per cent in 2019).

³ By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.

⁴ Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water.

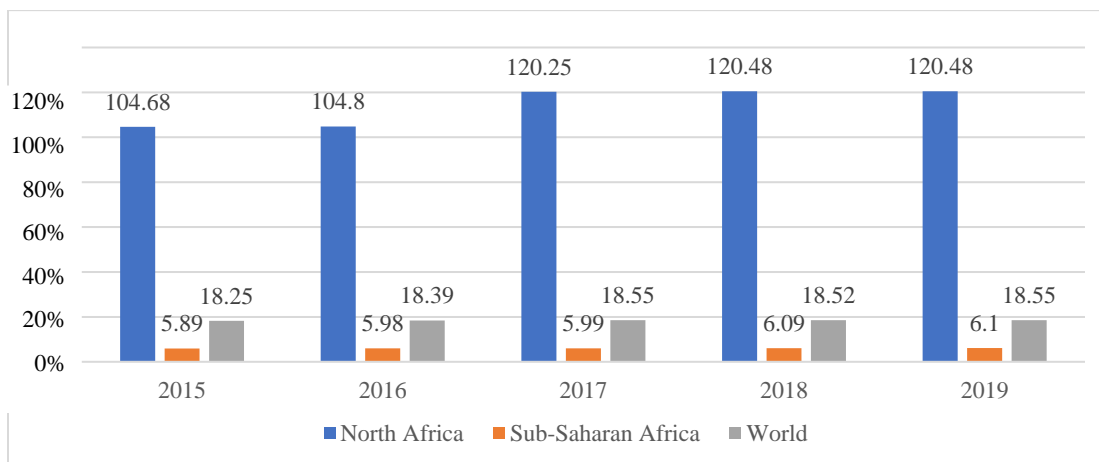
⁵ By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.

⁶ Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources.

Figure III

Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

(Percentage)



Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2022.

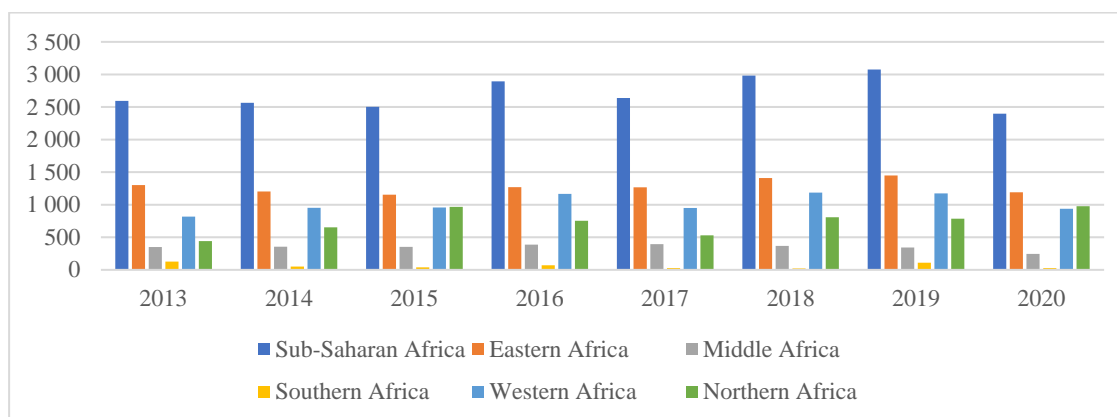
D. Target 6.a⁷ and indicator 6.a.1⁸

5. Official development assistance (ODA) to support water- and sanitation-related programmes has stagnated at between \$2.5 billion and \$3 billion since 2013 (see figure IV). Among the African subregions, East Africa received a relatively higher proportion of water- and sanitation-related ODA, followed by West Africa, while Southern Africa and Central Africa received a smaller proportion. In 2020, ODA for water and sanitation in sub-Saharan Africa dropped below the 2015 level of \$2.5 billion.

Figure IV

Total ODA for water supply and sanitation[#]

(Millions of constant 2020 United States dollars)



Source: Statistics Division, 2022, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

⁷ By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

⁸ Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (ODA) that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan.

E. Overall prospects

6. In general, the progress made towards achieving clean water and sanitation targets has been inadequate. It is crucial to appropriately manage competing demands for water resources and enhance water-use efficiency, such as through reuse and recycling, and ecosystem protection. Overall, progress on indicators 6.2.1, 6.4.1, 6.6.1, 6.a.1 and 6.b.1 needs to be accelerated, while the negative trend in water stress levels (indicator 6.4.2) must be reversed, in particular in North Africa.

III. Affordable and clean energy

Table 2

Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the related goals of Agenda 2063

<i>2030 Agenda</i>	<i>Agenda 2063</i>
Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Goal 1 – A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens Goal 6 – Blue/ocean economy for accelerated economic growth Goal 7 – Environmentally sustainable climate and resilient economies and communities Goal 10 – World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa

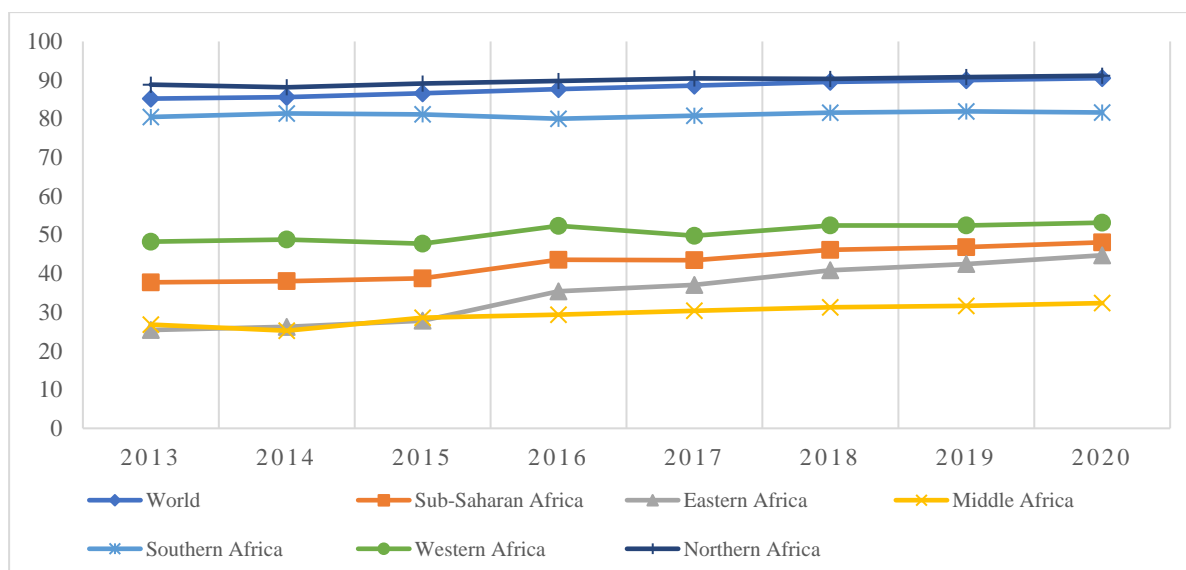
A. Target 7.1⁹ and indicator 7.1.1¹⁰

7. Electricity access in Africa is on the rise, but the majority of the population still lacks access. All African countries with available data experienced an increase in access to electricity between 2013 and 2020, yet more than half of the African population still lacks access to electricity (see figure V). North Africa achieved over 91 per cent access to electricity in 2020. In East Africa, the proportion of the population with access to electricity stood at 44.7 per cent in 2020 compared with 25.4 per cent in 2013. Algeria, Egypt, Mauritius, Morocco, Seychelles and Tunisia achieved close to 100 per cent access to electricity in 2020, while Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania are nearly on track to achieve the Agenda 2063 target of increasing electricity generation and distribution by at least 50 per cent from their 2013 levels by 2020 (goal 10, priority area 1, target 4). Nevertheless, in at least 13 African countries, 60 per cent or more of the population lacks access to electricity.

⁹ By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

¹⁰ Proportion of population with access to electricity.

Figure V
Proportion of the population with access to electricity
 (Percentage)

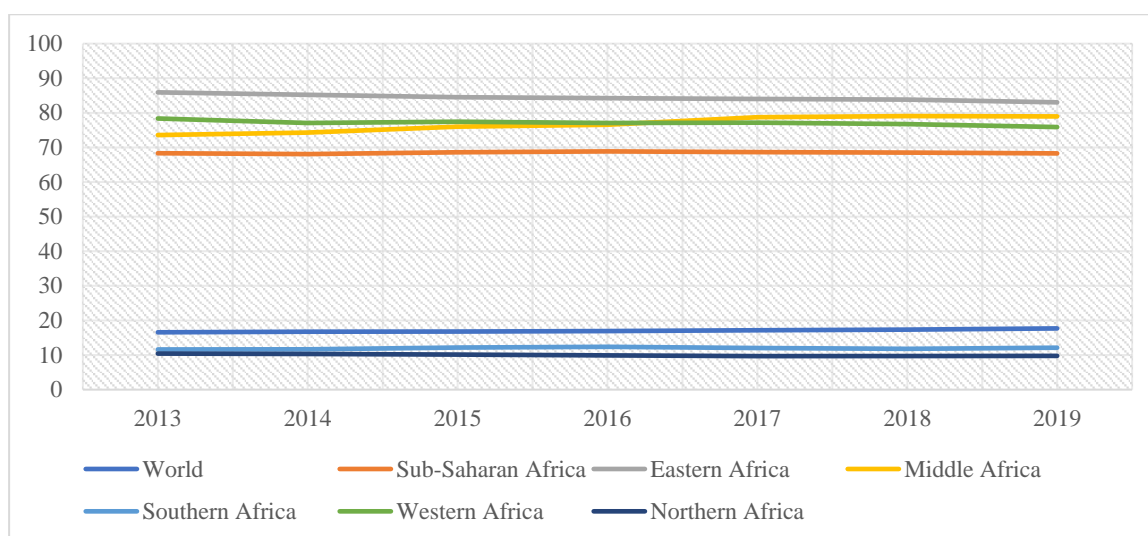


Source: Statistics Division, 2022.

B. Target 7.2¹¹ and indicator 7.2.1¹²

8. The share of renewable energy in total energy consumption has not shown major changes in Africa from 2013 to 2019, despite notable ongoing efforts to increase the use of renewable energy sources across the continent (see figure VI). North Africa and Southern Africa are more reliant on non-renewable energy consumption than the other subregions of the continent.

Figure VI
Renewable energy consumption
 (Percentage of total final energy consumption)



Source: Statistics Division, 2022.

¹¹ By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

¹² Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption.

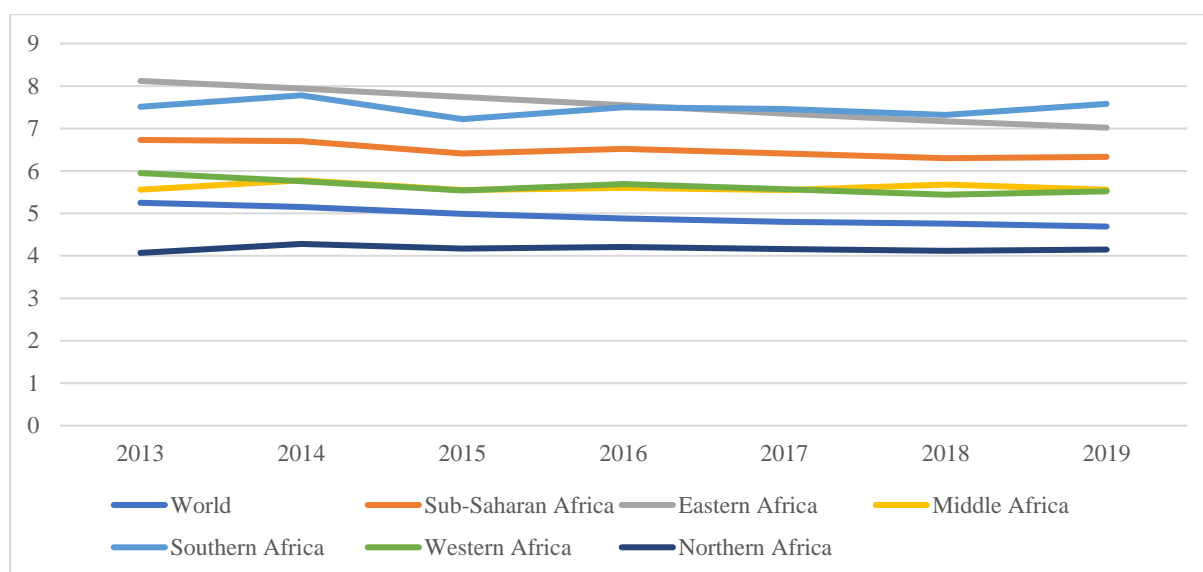
C. Target 7.3¹³ and indicator 7.3.1¹⁴

9. Energy intensity measures the amount of energy required to produce a unit of GDP. Thus, higher levels of energy intensity imply that an economy incurs higher costs in converting energy into output, suggesting that the economy is not efficient in the way it uses its energy. As demonstrated in figure VII, unlike Southern Africa and East Africa, North Africa has a lower level of energy intensity.

Figure VII

Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy

(Megajoule per 2017 United States dollar of GDP based on purchasing power parity)



Source: Statistics Division, 2022.

D. Overall prospects

10. Access to electricity in Africa, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, is very limited, despite the large potential for increased production. The projection made by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) shows that progress on indicators 7.1.1 (access to electricity), 7.1.2 (reliance on clean energy), 7.3.1 (energy intensity) and 7.b.1 (renewable electricity-generating capacity per capita) needs to be accelerated, while indicator 7.a.1 (international support for clean and renewable energy) is heading in the right direction, and indicator 7.2.1 has been regressing since 2000.

¹³ By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

¹⁴ Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and gross domestic product (GDP).

IV. Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Table 3

Sustainable Development Goal 9 and the related goals of Agenda 2063

2030 Agenda	Agenda 2063
Sustainable Development Goal 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Goal 1 – A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens Goal 4 – Transformed economies Goal 7 – Environmentally sustainable climate and resilient economies and communities Goal 10 – World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa Goal 19 – Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful coexistence

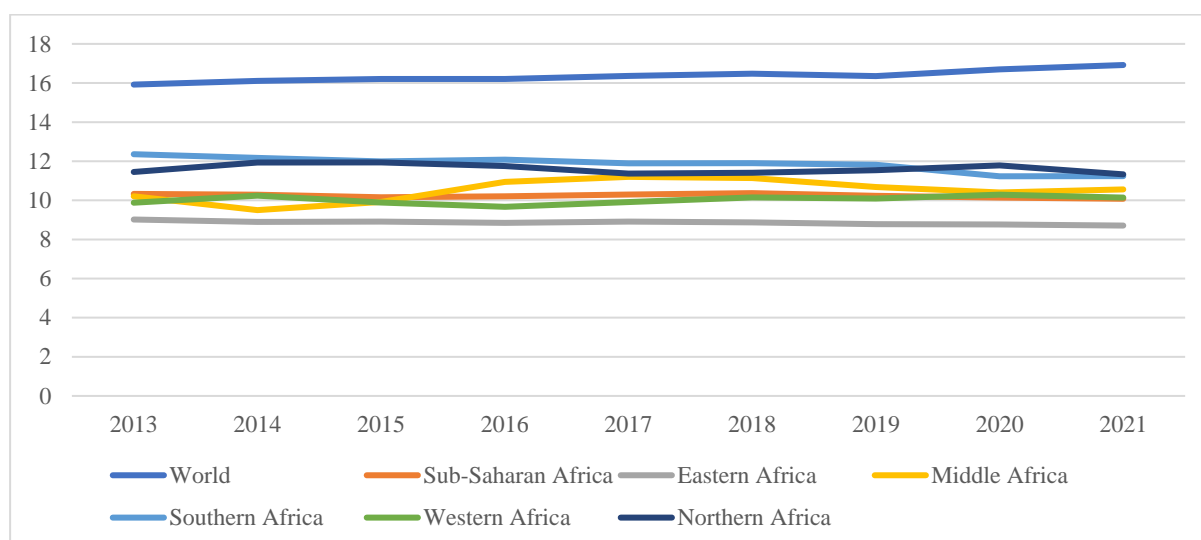
A. Target 9.2¹⁵ and indicator 9.2.1¹⁶

11. Despite the pandemic disruptions, the global share of manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP increased from 15.9 per cent in 2013 to 16.9 per cent in 2021. For sub-Saharan Africa, the share of manufacturing in GDP has been stagnant at around 10 per cent. Available data show that no remarkable progress in industrialization has been made by African countries over the past few years. For instance, in East Africa, the share of manufacturing value added has been declining and is the lowest among the subregions of the continent (see figure VIII). Although a 50 per cent increase in the real value of manufacturing as a proportion of GDP relative to the 2013 level was envisaged in Agenda 2063 (goal 4, priority area 2, target 1), this target is unlikely to be met.

Figure VIII

Manufacturing value added (in constant 2015 United States dollars) as a proportion of GDP

(Percentage)



Source: Statistics Division, 2022.

¹⁵ Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry’s share of employment and GDP, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.

¹⁶ Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita.

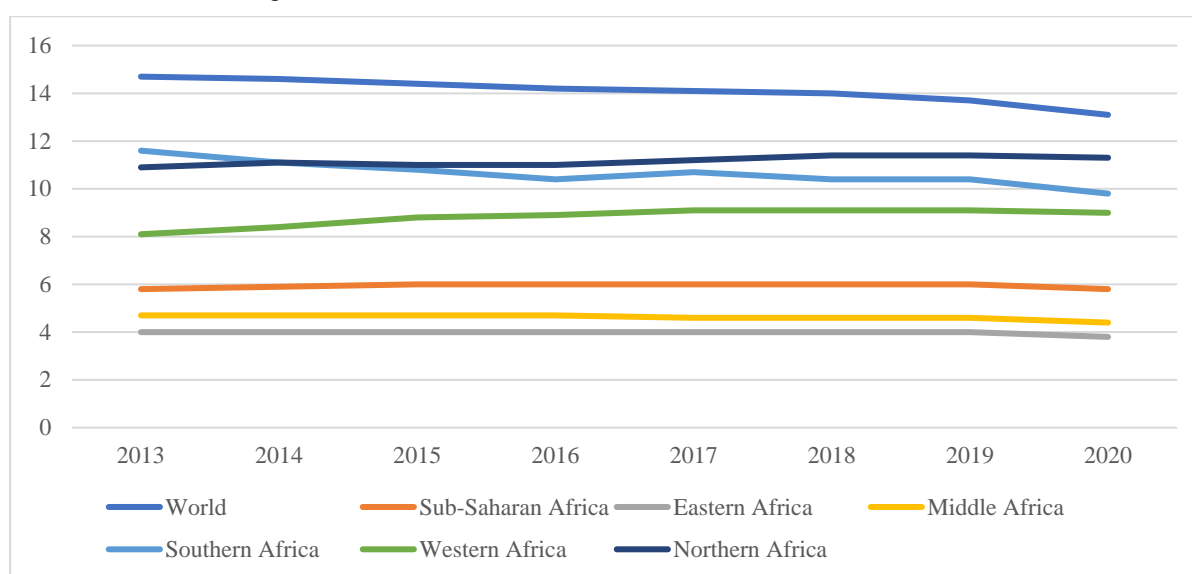
B. Indicator 9.2.2¹⁷

12. Employment in manufacturing is falling in Central, East and Southern Africa, while North and West Africa showed slight increases in 2020 compared with 2013 (see figure IX). The COVID-19 pandemic threatened jobs in manufacturing supply chains and led to the termination of workers or a reduction in their working hours. Consequently, the share of employment in the manufacturing sector has declined since 2019, following the outbreak of the pandemic.

Figure IX

Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

(Percentage)



Source: Statistics Division, 2022.

C. Target 9.4¹⁸ and indicator 9.4.1¹⁹

13. Global CO₂ emissions per unit of GDP based on purchasing power parity declined to 0.26 in 2019 from 0.31 in 2013 (see figure X). The indicator also declined in sub-Saharan African countries, even though CO₂ emissions in Southern Africa were higher than the global average.

¹⁷ Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment.

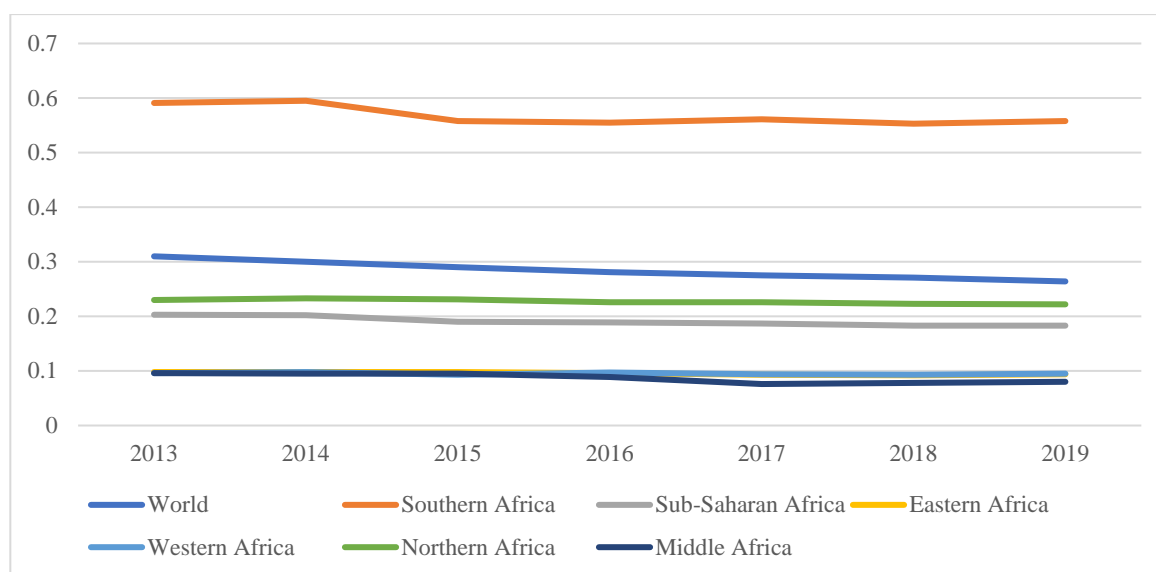
¹⁸ By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.

¹⁹ CO₂ emission per unit of value added.

Figure X

CO₂ emissions per unit of GDP based on purchasing power parity

(Kilograms of CO₂ per constant 2017 United States dollar)



Source: Statistics Division, 2022.

D. Target 9.a²⁰ and indicator 9.a.1²¹

14. In 2020, the pandemic reversed the rising trend in total official flows for infrastructure to sub-Saharan African countries. East and North Africa received a higher proportion of official flows for infrastructure. Acceleration of such flows is vital to enabling the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals.

Table 4

Total official flows for infrastructure

(Millions of constant 2020 United States dollars)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sub-Saharan Africa	8 413.3	9 261.8	9 192.1	8 370.3	9 874.0	9 820.8	10 939.0	8 940.7
East Africa	3 966.0	3 469.1	3 908.0	3 502.2	4 014.0	5 120.0	4 798.6	4 128.6
Central Africa	802.4	1 423.9	985.0	1 086.9	802.7	701.7	1 335.9	610.6
Southern Africa	1 111.5	1 323.3	1 307.5	1 477.0	1 493.5	565.4	585.6	738.8
West Africa	2 533.4	3 045.5	2 991.5	2 304.1	3 563.8	3 433.6	4 218.9	3 462.7
North Africa	3 175.6	3 725.9	3 998.5	6 270.7	5 562.9	5 979.3	6 192.1	5 033.8

Source: Statistics Division, 2022 and OECD.

²⁰ Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

²¹ Total official international support (ODA plus other official flows) to infrastructure.

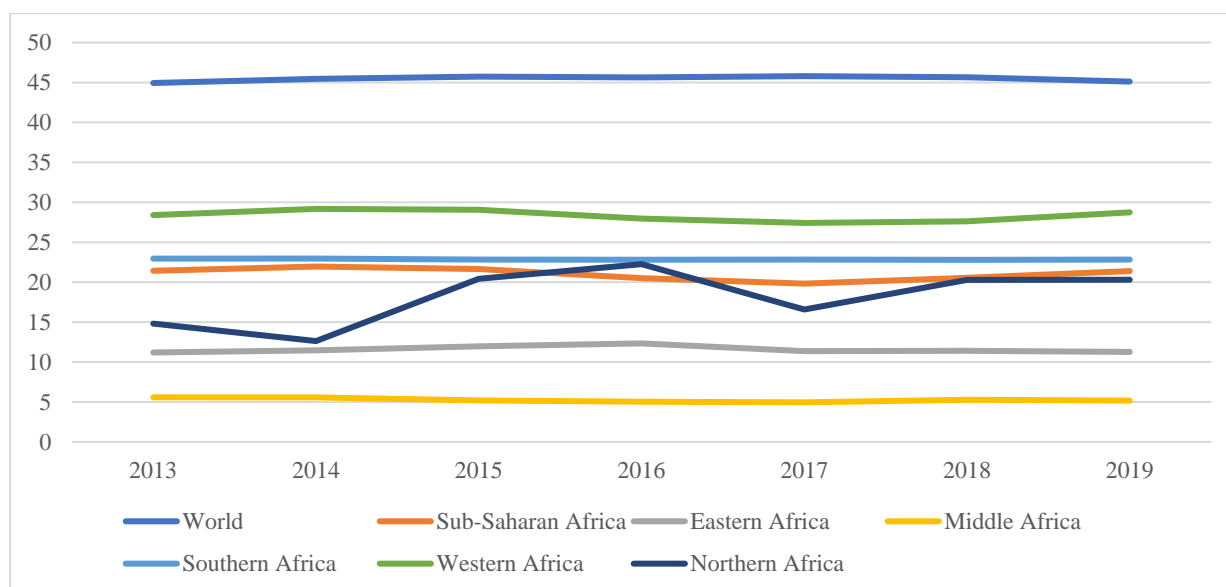
E. Target 9.b²² and indicator 9.b.1²³

15. The share of medium-technology and high-technology manufacturing in total manufacturing was 21.4 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa and only 5.2 per cent in Central Africa in 2019, compared with the global average of 45.1 per cent (see figure XI). North Africa has shown substantial increases since 2014, whereas there have been no significant changes in the other subregions.

Figure XI

Proportion of medium and high-tech manufacturing value added in total value added

(Percentage)



Source: Statistics Division, 2022.

F. Target 9.c²⁴ and indicator 9.c.1²⁵

16. Africa is on track to achieve the Agenda 2063 target of doubling ICT penetration and realizing a 70 per cent increase in broadband accessibility by 2020. Between 2014 and 2020, 3G network coverage showed striking progress in Africa, with 75 per cent and 93 per cent of the populations of sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa, respectively, having access to a mobile broadband network (see figure XII). In comparison, about 93 per cent of the world population had access to a mobile broadband network (3G) in 2020. In Africa, the coverage gap remains significant in Central Africa, where only 55 per cent of the population has access to a mobile broadband (3G) network, compared with 98.5 per cent in Southern Africa.

²² Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities.

²³ Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added.

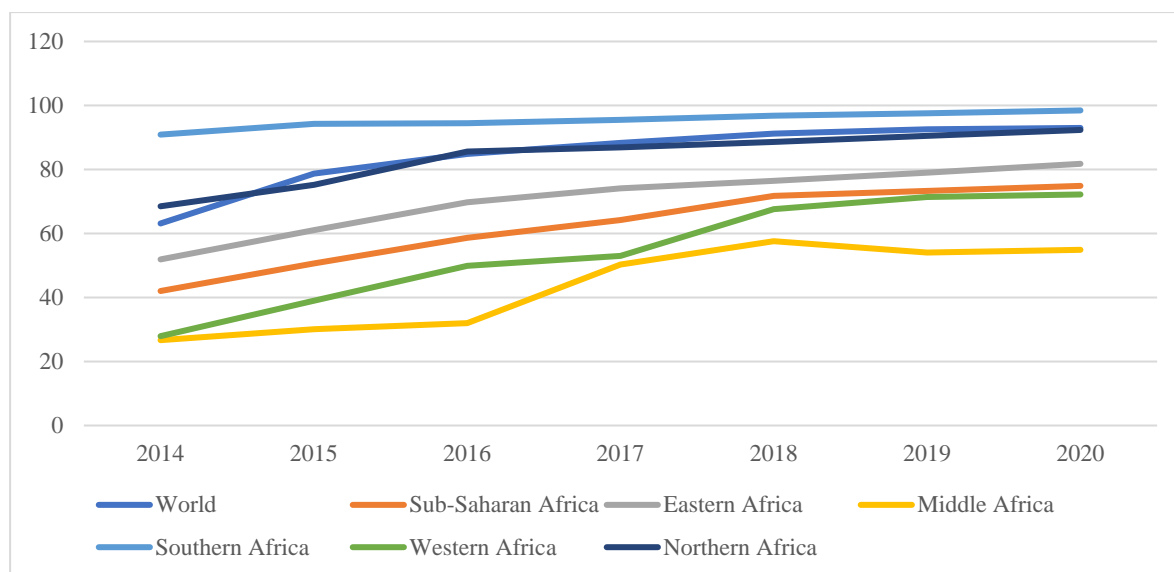
²⁴ Significantly increase access to information and communications technology (ICT) and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.

²⁵ Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology.

Figure XII

Proportion of the population covered by at least a 3G mobile network

(Percentage)



Source: Statistics Division, 2022.

G. Overall prospects

17. The continent has made sluggish progress overall on Goal 9. Just one enabler for the implementation of the Goals (indicator 9.c.1) is on track, whereas the rest of the indicators are either regressing or need acceleration.

V. Sustainable cities and communities

Table 5

Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the related goals of Agenda 2063

2030 Agenda	Agenda 2063
Sustainable Development Goal 11 – make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Goal 1 – A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens Goal 7 – Environmentally sustainable climate and resilient economies and communities Goal 10 – World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa Goal 12 – Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place Goal 16 – African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent

A. Target 11.1²⁶ and indicator 11.1.1²⁷

18. The proportion of the urban population living in slums in Africa has shown a slight decrease. In 2014, about 54.2 per cent of the urban population in Africa was living in slums, compared with 50.2 per cent in 2020, yet this is still significantly higher than the global average (see figure XIII). Moreover, the corresponding Agenda 2063 target of reducing urban slums by at least 10

²⁶ By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.

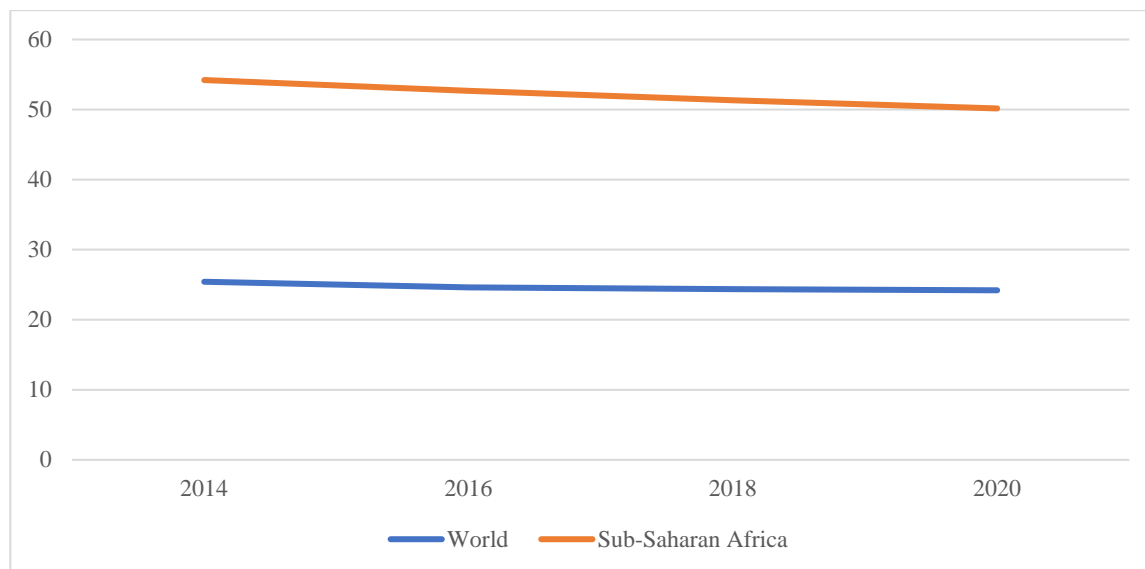
²⁷ Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing.

per cent (goal 1, priority area 4, target 10) is unlikely to be achieved by African countries.

Figure XIII

Proportion of the urban population living in slums

(Percentage)



Source: United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

B. Overall prospects

19. The projection made by ECA shows that the progress on indicator 11.b.1 (scope of adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies), indicator 11.b.2 (proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies) and indicator 11.1.1 (urban slum population) requires acceleration, while progress on indicator 11.5.2 has been regressing since 2000. The proportion of those in urban areas who live in slums is decreasing, which implies that progress has been made in providing decent housing and moving people out of informal settlements. The progress made in reducing the number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters has shown improvement but remains below the target. Progress made in increasing the scope of adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies must also be accelerated.

VI. Partnerships

Table 6

Sustainable Development Goal 17 and the related goals of Agenda 2063

2030 Agenda	Agenda 2063
Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Goal 1 – A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all citizens Goal 4 – Transformed economies Goal 10 – World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa Goal 19 – Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful coexistence Goal 20 – Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development

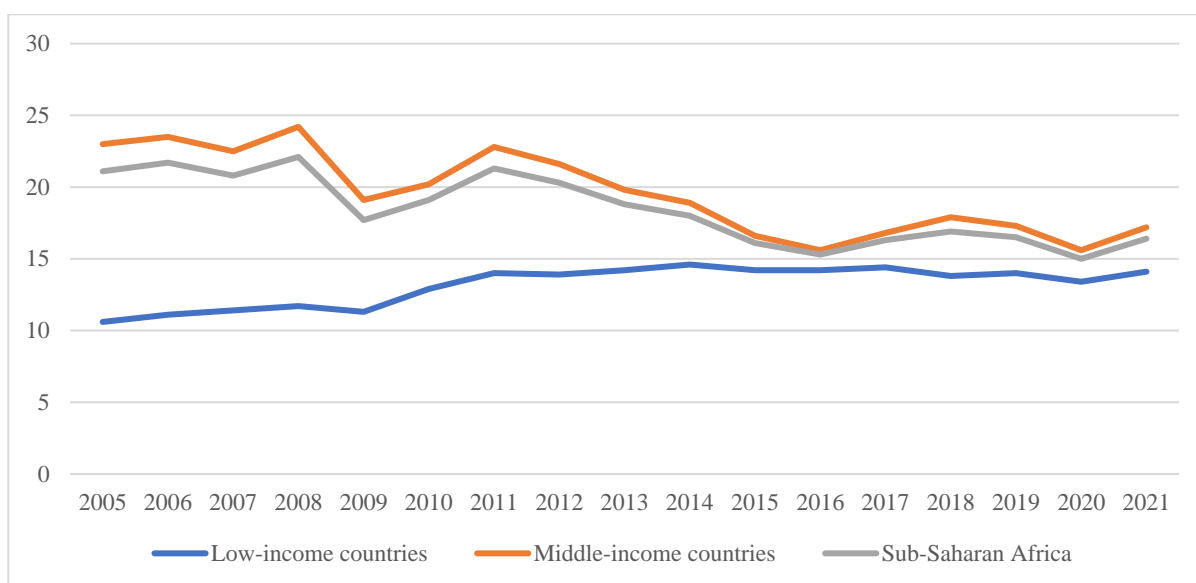
A. Target 17.1²⁸ and indicator 17.1.1²⁹

20. Domestic revenue generation in Africa continues to lag behind other regions and is below the average among least developed countries. For sub-Saharan Africa, revenue as a proportion of GDP dropped from 16.5 per cent in 2019 to 15 per cent in 2020 before rebounding to 16.4 per cent in 2021 (see figure XIV). The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted economic activity and revenue collection, leading to unexpected contractions in GDP, employment and income. Inefficiency in tax administration, leakages through corruption, and the existence of a narrow tax base and a large informal sector in most African countries have also contributed to the low revenue-to-GDP ratio.

Figure XIV

Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP for the period 2005–2021

(Percentage)



Source: International Monetary Fund, 2022.

B. Indicator 17.1.2³⁰

21. The proportion of the domestic budget financed by domestic taxes remained high in Africa, standing at 65.8 per cent in 2019 compared with 61.9 per cent in 2015 (see figure XV). This is higher than both the world average and the average among least developed countries. Nevertheless, Africa will still need to boost this proportion to achieve the 75 per cent annual Agenda 2063 target needed to finance expenditure for current needs and development priorities (priority area 2, target 1).

²⁸ Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.

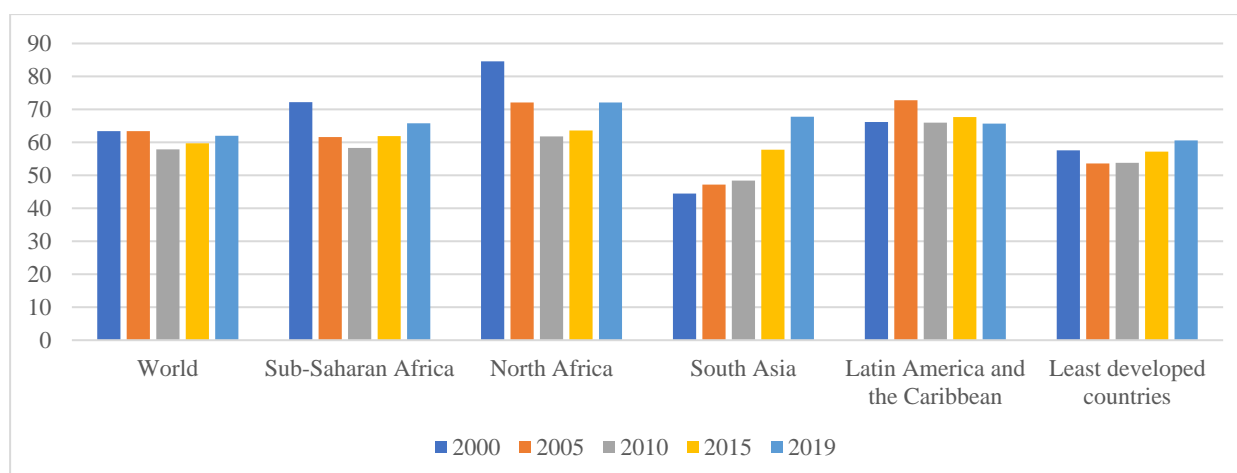
²⁹ Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source.

³⁰ Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes.

Figure XV

Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes

(Percentage)



Source: Statistics Division.

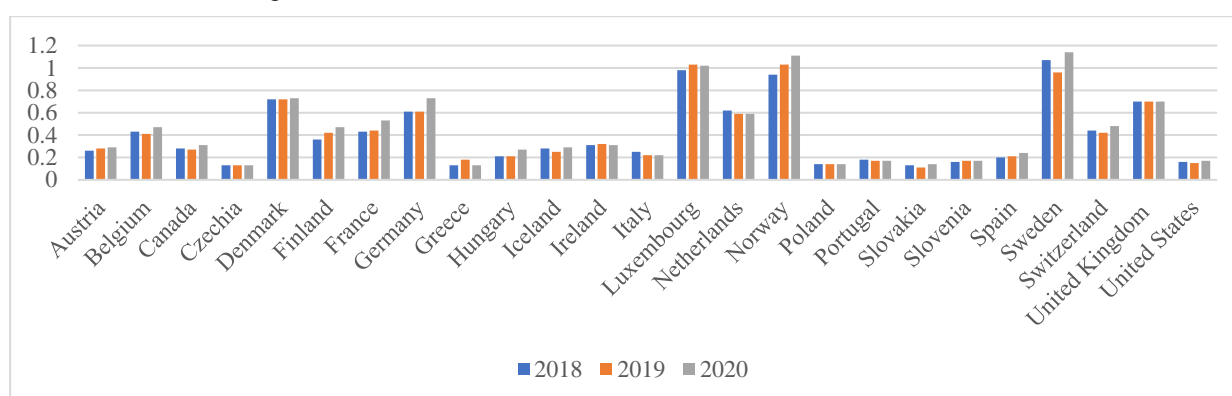
C. Target 17.2³¹ and indicator 17.2.1³²

22. OECD countries have collectively fallen short of their target of devoting 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to ODA. Of the 25 OECD countries, only 6 devoted 0.7 per cent or more of their gross national income to ODA to the least developed countries (see figure XVI). Despite this, ODA to Africa increased by 9.45 per cent to \$30.37 billion in 2020, as support provided to African countries during the COVID-19 pandemic boosted ODA flows.

Figure XVI

Net ODA, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the gross national income of OECD Development Assistance Committee donors

(Percentage)



Source: World Bank, "World development indicators", DataBank, available at <https://databank.worldbank.org/source/world-development-indicators> (accessed in 2022).

³¹ Developed countries to implement fully their ODA commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for ODA to least developed countries.

³² Net ODA, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the OECD Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income.

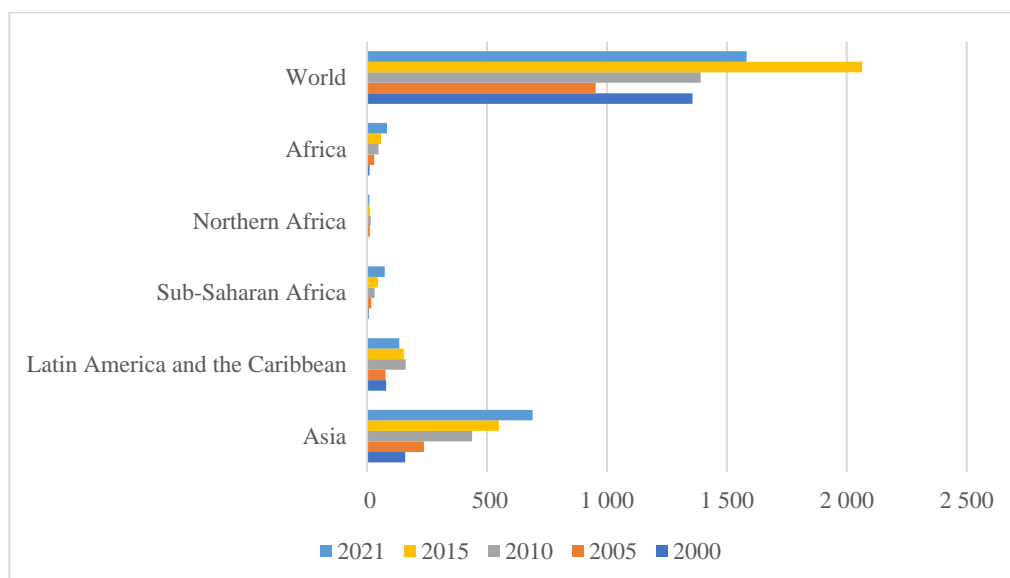
D. Target 17.3³³ and indicator 17.3.1³⁴

23. Figure XVII shows that flows of foreign direct investment (FDI) to Africa continue to lag behind other regions, such as Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2021, Africa received \$83 billion in FDI, which was far less than the \$690 billion received in Asia and the \$134.4 billion received in Latin America and the Caribbean. In West Africa, Nigeria received the largest amount of FDI, with \$4.8 billion in inflows invested in the oil and gas sector, while in East Africa, FDI to Ethiopia amounted to \$4.3 billion, which mainly comprised investment in renewable energy. In Central Africa, FDI to the Democratic Republic of the Congo was estimated at \$1.9 billion and was channelled to offshore oilfields and mining, while in Southern Africa, FDI increased almost tenfold between 2020 and 2021 to \$42 billion (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 2022).

Figure XVII

FDI inflows during the period 2000–2021

(Billions of United States dollars)



Source: UNCTAD, 2022.

E. Indicator 17.3.2³⁵

24. Remittances were highest in North Africa, at 6 per cent of GDP, and in West Africa, at 4.1 per cent of GDP in 2020 (see figure XVIII). In sub-Saharan Africa, the remittance percentages were highest in the smaller countries, such as Lesotho (25 per cent), Somalia (24.9 per cent), the Gambia (22.3 per cent), the Comoros (18.4 per cent), Cabo Verde (14.4 per cent) and Liberia (10.4 per cent) in 2020, while in North Africa the recipients of the largest volumes by percentage were Egypt (8.1 per cent), Morocco (6.4 per cent) and Tunisia (5.6 per cent).

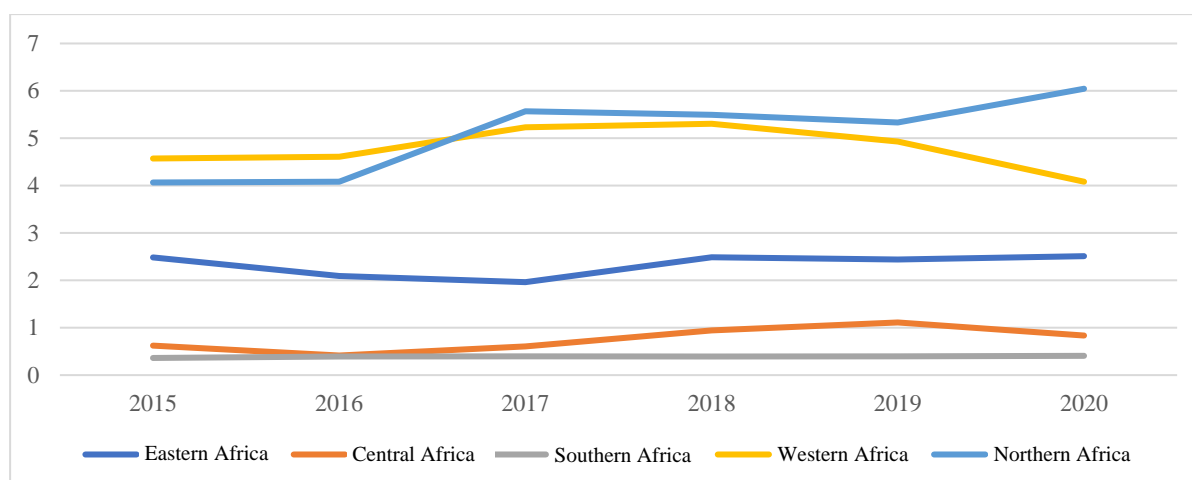
³³ Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.

³⁴ Additional financial resources mobilized for developing countries from multiple sources.

³⁵ Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP.

Figure XVIII

Remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP
(Percentage)



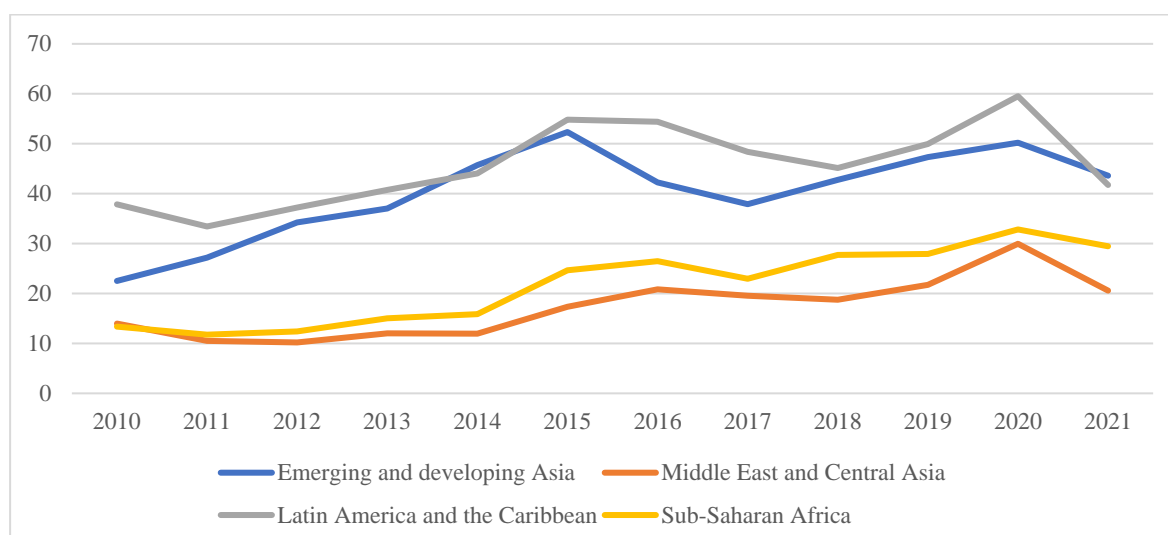
Source: Statistics Division.

F. Target 17.4³⁶ and indicator 17.4.1³⁷

25. Debt management has been challenging for African Governments, with debt servicing diverting already scarce capital resources from sustainable development and critical projects to improve infrastructure. External debt servicing in sub-Saharan Africa increased from 27.9 per cent of goods and services in 2019 to 32.8 per cent of goods and services in 2020 (see figure XIX).

Figure XIX

External debt service as a share of exports of goods and services
(Percentage)



Source: International Monetary Fund, 2022.

³⁶ Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress.

³⁷ Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services.

G. Target 17.6³⁸ and indicator 17.6.1³⁹

26. Despite some notable progress achieved, ICT in Africa remains limited. While 85 per cent of the population in Europe and North America had Internet access in 2019, the figure for the least developed countries stood at only 20 per cent (United Nations, 2021). Fixed broadband subscriptions in Africa increased from 0.4 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2015 to 0.60 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2021 (see table 7). However, this was significantly lower than the global average of 16.7 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2021.

Table 7

Fixed broadband subscriptions

(Per 100 inhabitants)

Region	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
World	11.4	12.2	13.6	14.1	14.9	15.8	16.7
Africa	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6
Least developed countries	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.4
Landlocked developing countries	1.9	2.1	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.9	3.0
Small island developing States	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.1	7.5	8.0	8.4

Source: International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database, available at www.itu.int/pub/D-IND-WTID.OL-2022 (accessed in 2022).

H. Target 17.8⁴⁰ and indicator 17.8.1⁴¹

27. The proportion of individuals using the Internet in Africa has steadily increased from 16.3 per 100 inhabitants in 2015 to 35.3 per 100 inhabitants in 2021 (see figure XX). Increasing Internet coverage, especially in rural areas, addressing the gender gap in the use of the Internet and targeting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises remain urgent policy actions for the region (United Nations Development Programme, 2021).

³⁸ Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

³⁹ Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed.

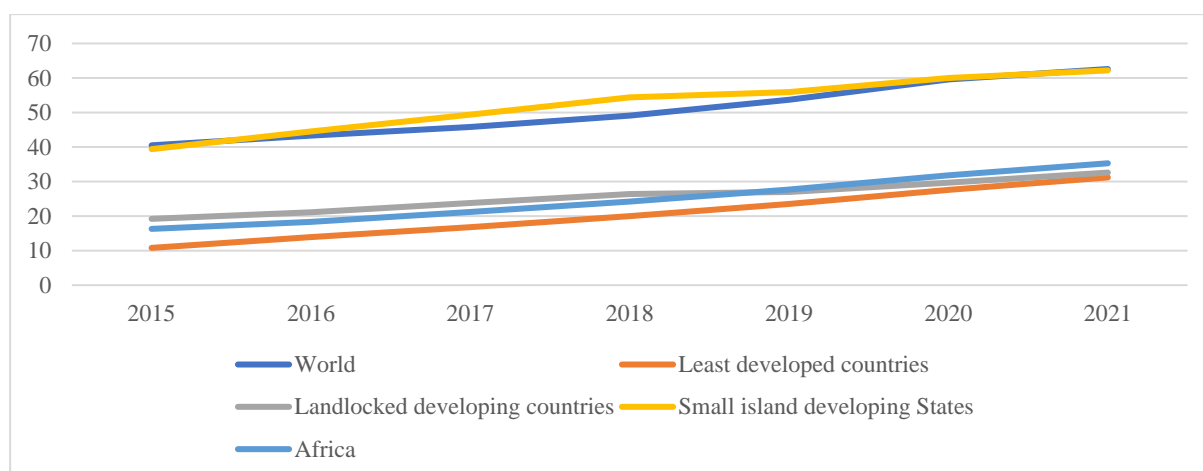
⁴⁰ Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular ICT.

⁴¹ Proportion of individuals using the Internet.

Figure XX

Proportion of individuals using the Internet

(Per 100 inhabitants)



Source: International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database available at www.itu.int/pub/D-IND-WTID.OL-2022 (accessed in 2022).

I. Target 17.9⁴² and indicator 17.9.1⁴³

28. Net ODA in sub-Saharan Africa increased from \$47.54 billion in 2015 to \$66.84 billion in 2020 (see table 8). In the Middle East and North Africa, ODA increased from \$19.66 billion in 2015 to \$28.10 billion in 2020, with Egypt and Morocco receiving the highest inflows. However, most advanced economies continue to fall short of their commitment to devote 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to ODA, at a critical time when African countries require additional resources for economic recovery (United Nations, 2022).

Table 8

Net ODA and official aid received

(Billions of constant 2020 United States dollars)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Latin America and the Caribbean	10.46	11.66	8.52	10.00	8.50	13.05
Sub-Saharan Africa	47.54	47.46	52.18	51.35	54.52	66.84
Middle East and North Africa	19.66	26.54	27.80	31.65	27.65	28.10

Source: World Bank, "World development indicators".

⁴² Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

⁴³ Dollar value of financial and technical assistance committed to developing countries.

J. Target 17.11⁴⁴ and indicator 17.11.1⁴⁵

29. Developing countries' share of global exports of goods and services increased slightly from 39.0 per cent in 2020 to 40.1 per cent in 2021, while the least developed countries' share of global exports of goods and services decreased slightly from 0.94 per cent in 2020 to 0.93 per cent in 2021 (see table 9).

Table 9

Share of global exports of goods and services, by country category

(Percentage)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Developing and emerging industrial countries	38.9	37.8	38.5	38.8	39.0	39.0	40.1
Least developed countries	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9

Source: UNCTAD, 2022.

K. Overall prospects

30. The continent has made little progress overall on Sustainable Development Goal 17. The enablers for the implementation of the Goal have registered only a slight improvement. There is a need to work towards accelerating tax revenue and FDI. In 2021, Africa received \$83 billion of FDI inflows, which constituted an increase of \$25 billion compared with 2015. In sub-Saharan Africa, remittances in 2020 represented 2.52 per cent of GDP compared with 2.12 per cent in 2013. Africa is on track to reach the target regarding debt sustainability and servicing (indicator 17.4.1). In 2000, half of African countries had a level of debt servicing above 13 per cent, whereas in 2019 they had a level of debt service below 4.3 per cent.

VII. Key messages and policy recommendations

31. Ensuring the availability of clean and safe water and sanitation for all is a vital part of creating the world we want to live in. The scarcity of sufficient clean water has a far-reaching impact on poor families' health outcomes, educational achievement and livelihoods, among others. In the light of rapid population growth, urbanization and the poor management of water resources, access to clean water is under threat. Thus, there is a need to increase global efforts to ensure the sustainable and fair distribution of clean water to all.

32. Access to modern and renewable sources of energy is fundamental to achieving sustainable human development. It is key to improving the quality of life of the population. For example, the use of clean energy for cooking is critical to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women. Despite this fact, access to electricity in Africa, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, is very limited.

⁴⁴ Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.

⁴⁵ Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports.

33. Available data show that no noteworthy progress has been made with regard to industrialization, and the manufacturing industry in particular has exhibited stagnation in African countries. The share of manufacturing value added to GDP in African countries is significantly lower than the global average. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated the situation through the worldwide disruption of supply chains. The single most effective way for the continent to achieve long-term growth is therefore by unleashing the potential of the manufacturing sector by addressing key bottlenecks, including by ensuring access to electricity, facilitating credit and creating a climate that is conducive to investment and knowledge transfer in the form of FDI.

34. Harnessing digital technologies and promoting free and fair competition will be key to revitalizing African economies. Digital technologies can stimulate innovation, economic growth and job creation in critical sectors of the economy by enabling greater connectivity between African markets and the rest of the world. They can also increase market access and financing for marginalized populations, which are usually excluded from the formal financial system. Moreover, digital technologies also help to boost energy efficiency and the creation of smart grids and are the basis for delivering energy as a service.

35. African Governments should aim to strengthen domestic resource mobilization by accelerating digitalization, improving tax policy and administration, curbing illicit financial flows and creating enabling governance, legal and judicial frameworks for enhanced accountability, transparency and participation. There is a need to increase fiscal space by leveraging private financing for public projects and for sustainable public borrowing. Moreover, efforts are needed in the area of strategic development cooperation, specifically through enhanced South-South cooperation and the issuance of impact bonds.
