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Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*  
**Presidential dialogue**

## 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. Progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, has been tested by various crises. African countries remain, however, committed to achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development. The theme of the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development, “Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”, is, therefore, pertinent to Africa.

2. The present report provides an overview of the performance of Africa in respect of Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17, which will all be considered in depth during the 2025 high-level political forum, and the associated goals of Agenda 2063.<sup>1</sup> Although a lack of data relevant to all the associated targets and indicators prevents a full analysis, the present report contains information on the performance of the continent in comparison with other regions, and of African subregions in comparison with one another.<sup>2</sup>

### II. Healthy lives

Table 1  
**Sustainable Development Goal 3 and associated goals of Agenda 2063**

<i>2030 Agenda</i>	<i>Agenda 2063</i>
Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Goal 3 – Healthy and well-nourished citizens Goal 1 – A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all

\* ECA/RFSD/2025/1.

<sup>1</sup> For details of the goals of Agenda 2063 and their associated aspirations, moonshots and strategic objectives, see African Union, *Decade of Accelerated Implementation: Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2024–2033* (Addis Ababa, 2024), p. 21.

<sup>2</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, the findings in this report were sourced from the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database of the United Nations, available at <https://ecastats.uneca.org/africaundata/SDGs> (accessed on 21 December 2024) and <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal> (accessed on 4 December 2024), respectively.

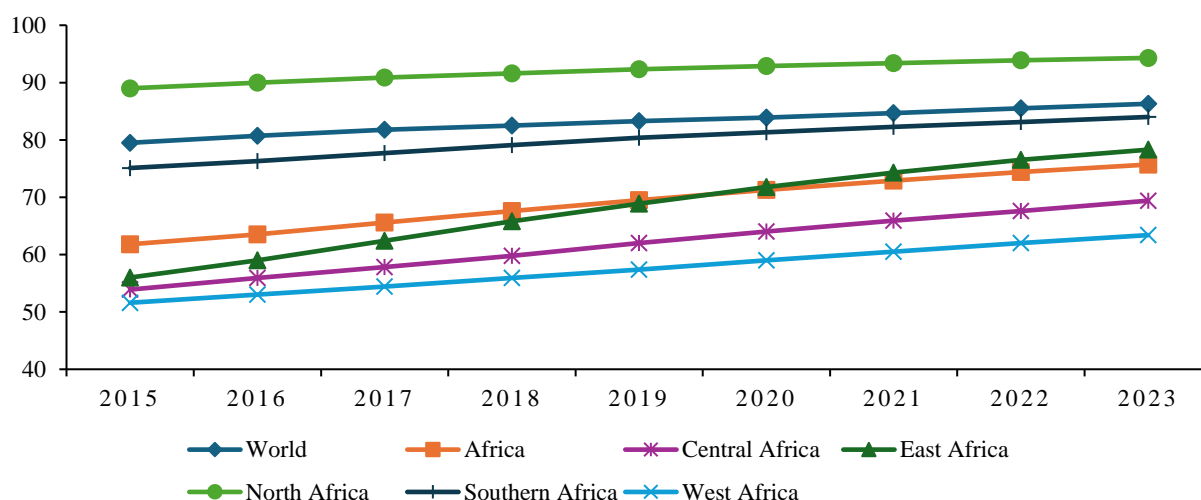


### A. Sustainable Development Goals target 3.1 and indicators 3.1.1 and 3.1.2

3. Maternal and newborn care are foundations of women’s health, human capital development and lifelong well-being. Sustainable Development Goal target 3.1 is to reduce the maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030. A significant implementation gap remains, however: according to the latest data, in 2020 the global ratio was 223 deaths and the African ratio was 487 deaths per 100,000 live births.

4. There are considerable disparities among African countries. In North and Southern Africa, there are typically fewer than 150 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, while in other subregions there are more than 500 such deaths. Limited access to skilled birth attendants and inadequate facilities are major contributors to the high maternal mortality rates observed in Central, East and West Africa. In 2023, skilled health personnel attended 94.3 per cent and 84.0 per cent of births in North and Southern Africa, respectively, but those figures are just 69.4 per cent, 78.3 per cent and 63.4 per cent in Central, East and West Africa, respectively, as shown in figure 1. Although progress has been made, recent evidence underscores the need for accelerated efforts to achieve target 3.1 by 2030.

Figure 1  
**Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel, 2015–2023**  
 (Percentage)

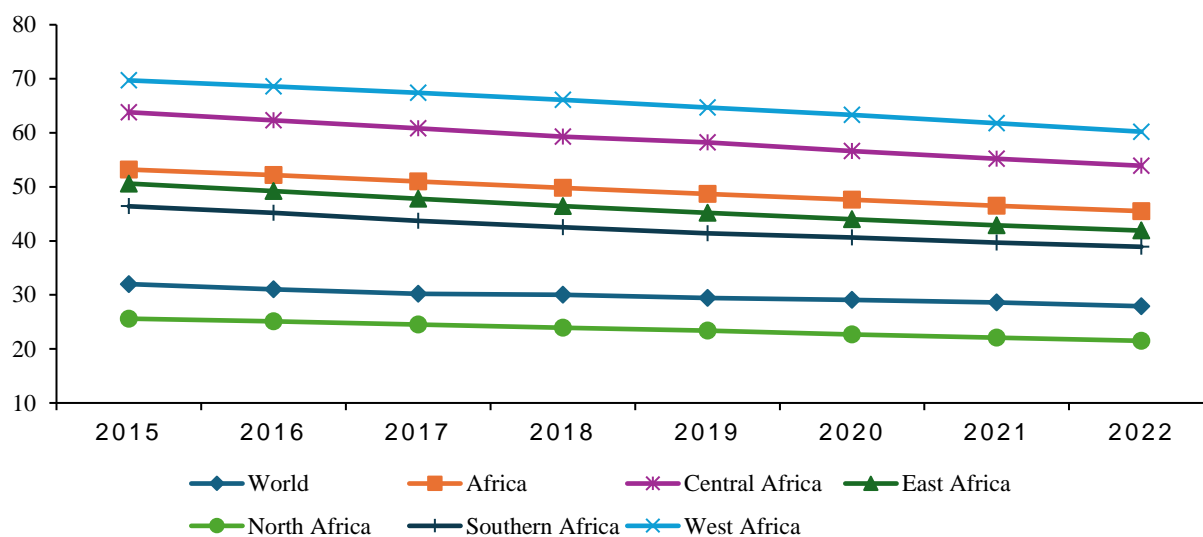


Source: Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database. Available at <https://ecastats.uneca.org/africaundata/SDGs> (accessed on 21 December 2024).

### B. Sustainable Development Goals target 3.2 and indicators 3.2.1 and 3.2.2

5. Improved healthcare and nutrition have significantly reduced global infant and neonatal mortality. In Africa, infant mortality rates dropped from 53.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015 to 45.5 in 2022, as shown in figure 2, and under-five infant mortality fell from 73.8 deaths per 1,000 live births to 60.5. Despite progress, Africa, among all regions, continues to account for the largest proportion of infant deaths globally, with 55.5 per cent of the total. Evidence suggests that over 75 per cent of under-five deaths occur in the first year of life, with more than 40 per cent in the first month.

Figure 2  
**Infant mortality rates, 2015–2022**  
 (Number per 1,000 live births )

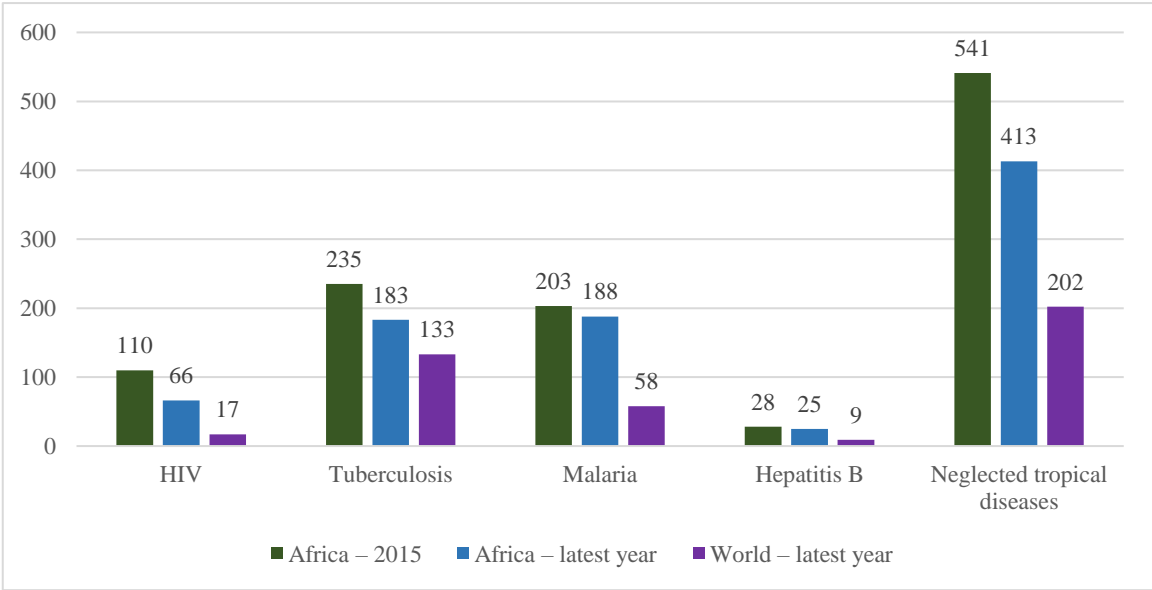


Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

### C. Sustainable Development Goals target 3.3 and indicators 3.3.1–3.3.5

6. There has been progress in efforts to end major epidemics of communicable diseases, in particular in the prevention of HIV infections. Since 2015, the number of new HIV infections per 100,000 uninfected people in Africa dropped by 40 per cent, from 110 to 66 in 2022. Figure 3 illustrates some less encouraging information, however. First, both HIV and malaria remain disproportionately concentrated in Africa. Second, progress in reducing the incidence of tuberculosis and hepatitis B infections has been slow. Third, the prevalence of neglected tropical diseases is nearly 42 per cent, with 413 individuals per 1,000 population in need of interventions in 2022 in Africa.

Figure 3  
**Incidence of major communicable diseases<sup>a</sup>**  
 (Incidence per population)<sup>b</sup>



Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

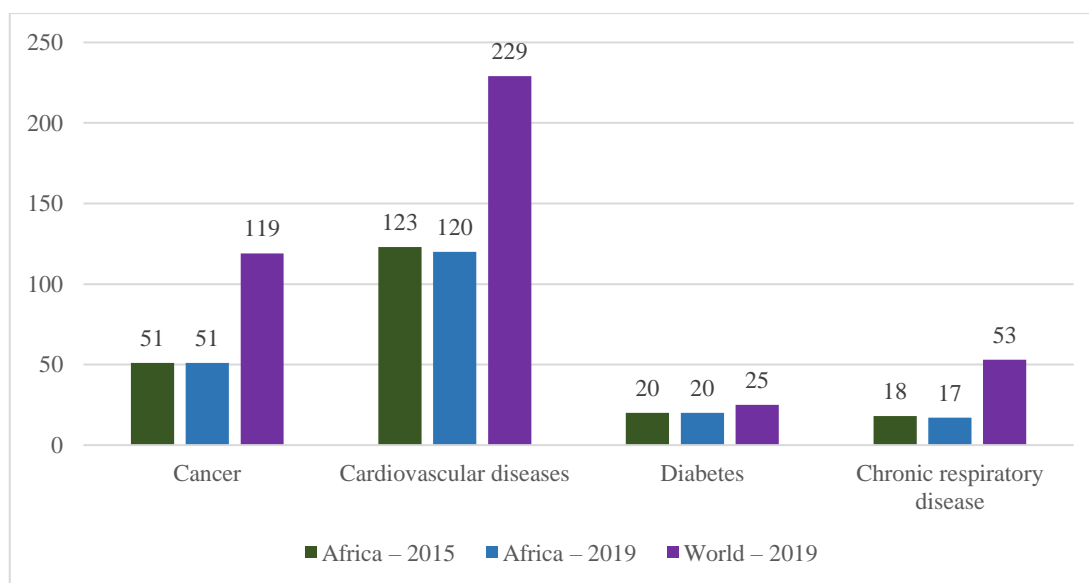
<sup>a</sup> Latest data are from 2022, except for hepatitis B, which are from 2020.

<sup>b</sup> Incidences of HIV and tuberculosis are expressed per 100,000 population; incidence of malaria, hepatitis B and neglected tropical diseases are expressed per 1,000 population.

**D. Sustainable Development Goals target 3.4 and indicator 3.4.1**

7. The number of deaths in Africa attributed to non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases and respiratory diseases, is roughly half the global level, as shown in figure 4. Growing levels of affluence in some African countries, and increasing consumption of sugary and ultraprocessed foods, have, however, led to disproportionately high rates of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases relative to the continent’s development levels.

Figure 4  
**Number of deaths attributed to non-communicable diseases per 100,000 population**

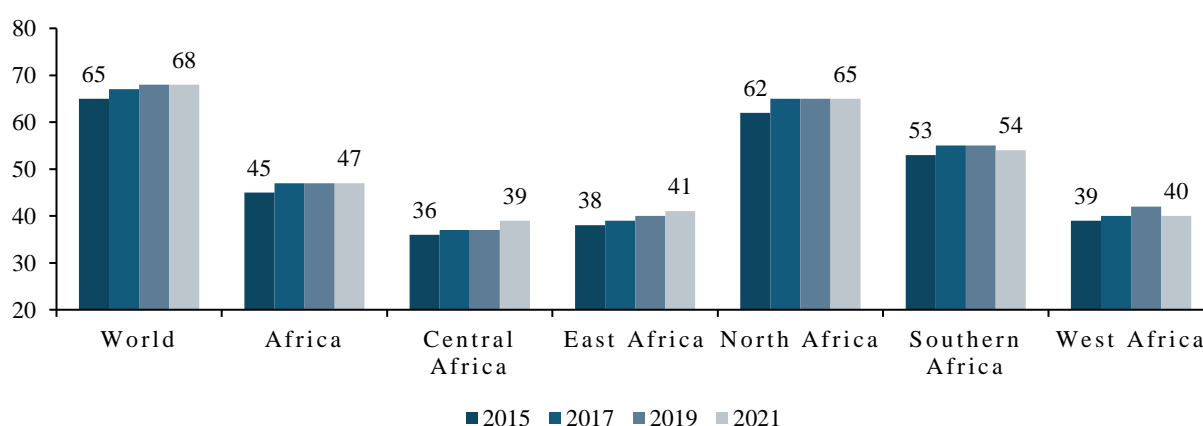


Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal> (accessed on 4 December 2024).

### E. Sustainable Development Goals target 3.8 and indicator 3.8.1

8. Strengthening the capacities of health systems is essential to safeguarding the well-being of every African and to fostering a resilient African economy. According to the universal health coverage service coverage index published by the World Health Organization,<sup>3</sup> African subregions have made modest progress in providing essential health services. The strong correlation between health system capacity and health outcomes is evident when comparing the data in figure 1 with those in figure 5.

Figure 5  
**Universal health coverage service coverage index scores, 2015–2021**



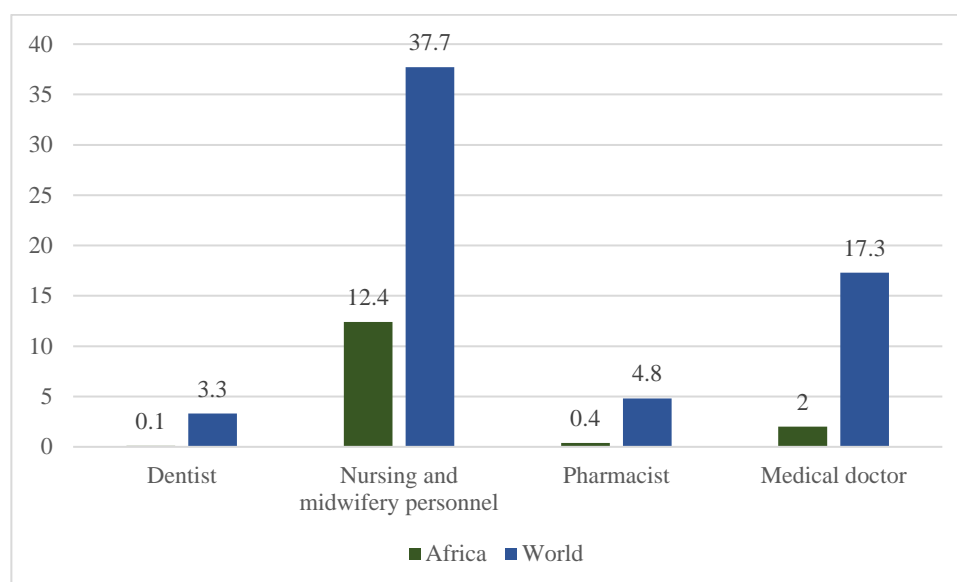
Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

<sup>3</sup> For the universal health coverage service coverage index, a geometric mean of 14 indicators of service coverage, organized into four broad categories – reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health; infectious diseases; non-communicable diseases; and service capacity and access – results in a single summary measure on a unitless scale of 0–100.

## F. Sustainable Development Goals target 3.c and indicator 3.c.1

9. Trained, professional health workers are the backbone of any country’s healthcare system. Compared with global averages, Africa has only about a third of the density of nursing and midwifery personnel, a tenth of pharmacists and medical doctors and a thirtieth of dentists, when normalized by population size, as shown in figure 6.

Figure 6  
Health workers per 10,000 population, by type, 2019



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

## G. Overall prospects

10. The treatment and prevention of various communicable and non-communicable diseases place additional strain on already limited medical resources in many African countries. It is crucial for African Governments to implement public health measures that help to promote both physical and mental well-being in order to prevent further health challenges and economic costs. Investing in the education and training of medical professionals is essential. In addition, African Governments must ensure that health facilities are efficiently managed and are allocated the appropriate resources, with a view to creating a supportive and productive environment in which medical professionals can serve the population.

## III. Gender equality

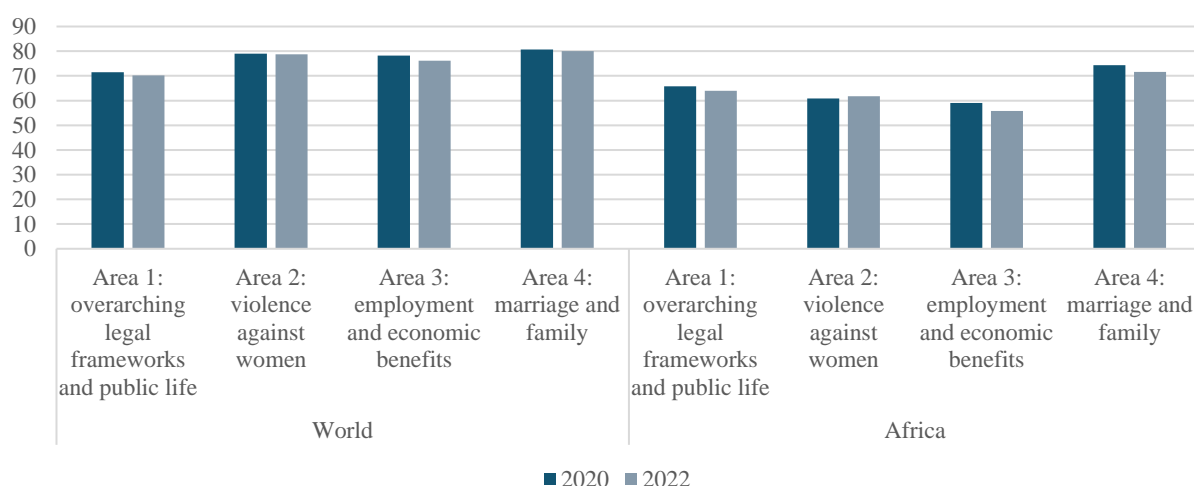
Table 2  
Sustainable Development Goal 5 and associated goals of Agenda 2063

2030 Agenda	Agenda 2063
Goal 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Goal 17 – Full gender equality in all spheres of life Goal 18 – Engaged and empowered youth and children

### A. Sustainable Development Goals target 5.1 and indicator 5.1.1

11. A robust legal framework promoting gender equality is essential for driving transformational change. From 2020 to 2022, several African countries made commendable progress in advancing legal frameworks to address violence against women, as can be seen in figure 7. The adoption of equitable laws that facilitate access by women to the workforce correlates strongly with more balanced labour market outcomes and enhanced human capital. Little progress has been made, however, in enhancing economic inclusiveness for women, in particular in North Africa. In 2022, Africa was 20.3 percentage points below the world level for the implementation of legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality in relation to employment and economic benefits.

Figure 7  
**Legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality, by area**  
 (Percentage of achievement)

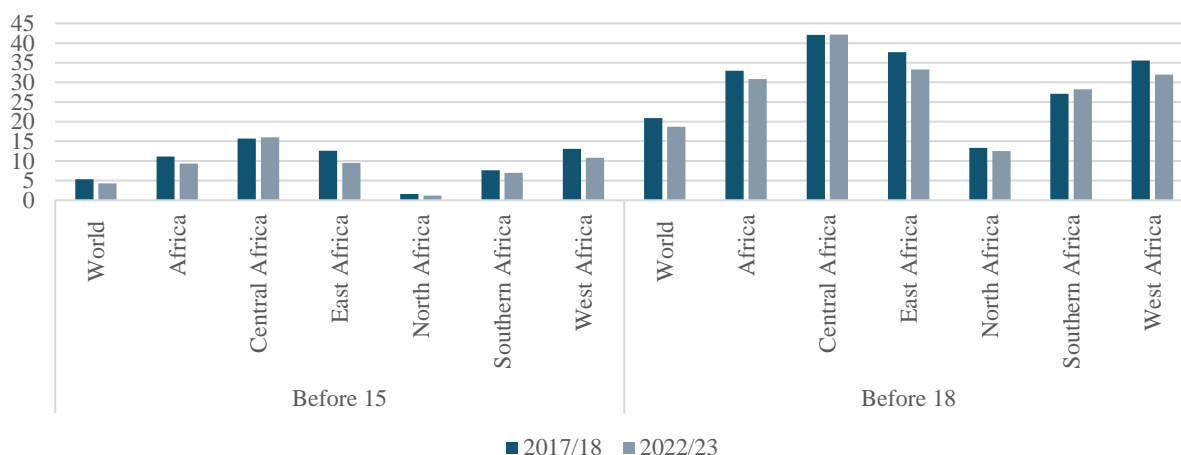


Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

### B. Sustainable Development Goals target 5.3 and indicator 5.3.1

12. In Africa, the prevalence of child marriage remains alarming, with about 30 per cent of women aged 20–24 years having been married before the age of 18, as shown in figure 8. Between 2017 and 2022, progress was modest, with a reduction of only 2.1 percentage points in that measure. Of the subregions, early marriage issues are worst in Central, East and West Africa. In contrast, there is a better picture in North Africa, where child marriage rates are significantly below the global average.

Figure 8  
**Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before the ages of 15 and 18 years**  
 (Percentage)

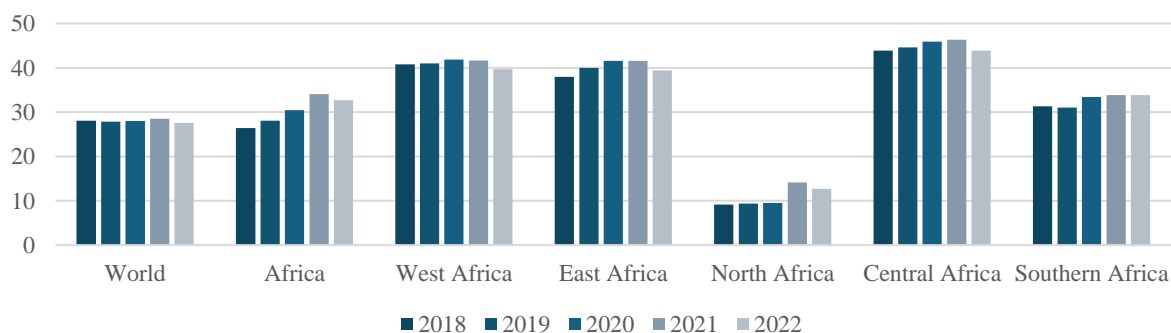


Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

**C. Sustainable Development Goals target 5.5 and indicators 5.5.1 and 5.5.2**

13. Despite progress in recent years, including the implementation of special quotas, women in Africa hold just 25.6 per cent of parliamentary seats, which is far from gender parity. Central Africa is a leader for the proportion of women in managerial positions: despite a slight decline from 46.3 per cent in 2021, 43.9 per cent of such roles were held by women in 2022, as shown in figure 9. In stark contrast, the lowest representation is in North Africa, where only 12.7 per cent of managerial positions were occupied by women in 2022. In addition, women’s presence on corporate boards is extremely limited in that subregion.

Figure 9  
**Proportion of women in managerial positions**  
 (Percentage)



Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

**D. Sustainable Development Goals target 5.6 and indicators 5.6.1 and 5.6.2**

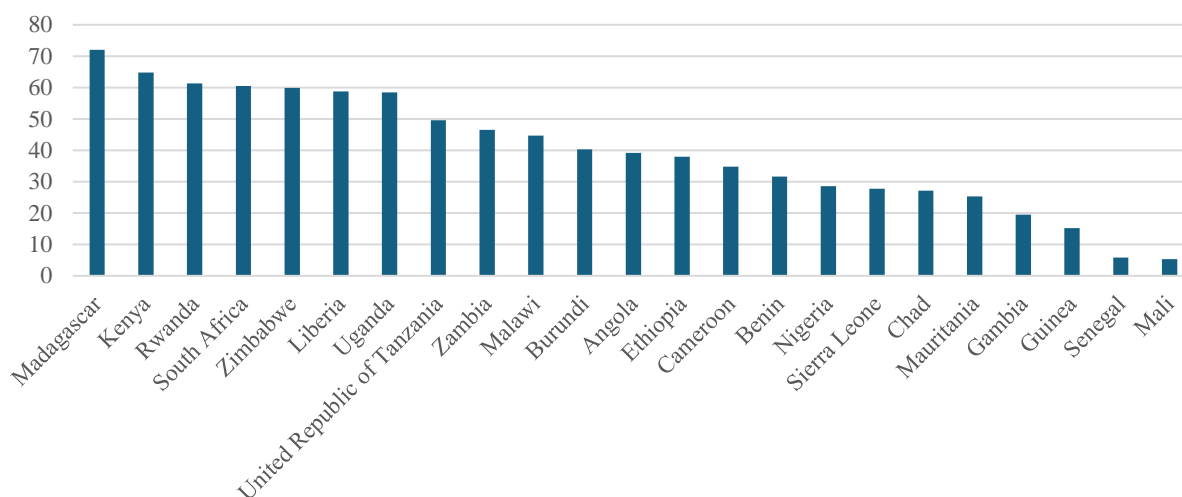
14. The autonomy of women and girls in making decisions about consensual sexual relations, contraceptive use and access to sexual and reproductive health services is



essential for their empowerment and full respect of their reproductive rights. Decision-making dynamics vary significantly across regions, however. In Southern Africa, 92 per cent of married or in-union women make decisions regarding their healthcare, and 75 per cent have the autonomy to refuse sex.<sup>4</sup> In contrast, in Central Africa, only 50 per cent of women make healthcare decisions, although nearly 80 per cent can say no to sex. These levels vary widely across countries, as shown in figure 10.

Figure 10

**Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive healthcare, selected African countries, latest available year**  
(Percentage)



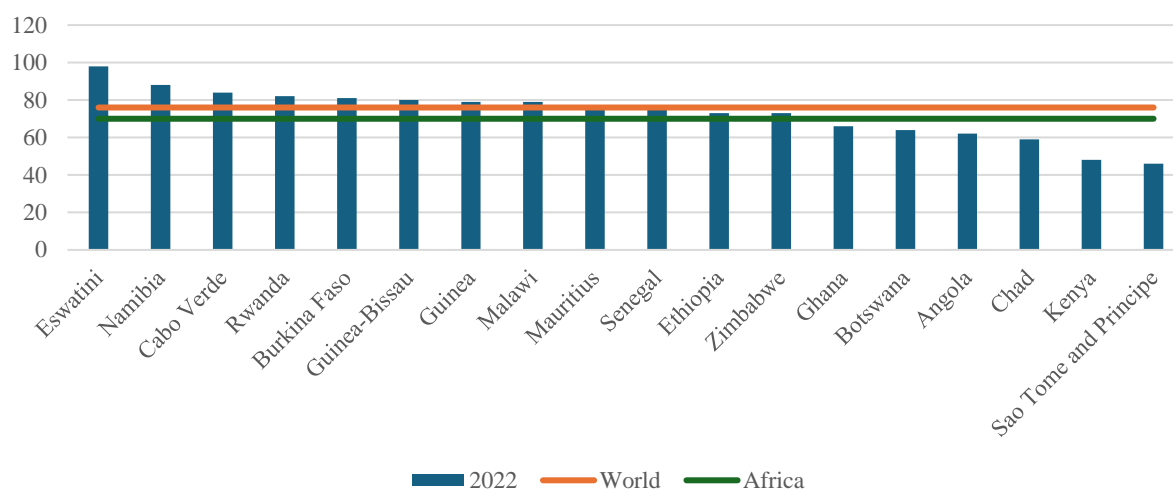
*Source:* United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

*Note:* Owing to data limitations, the figure reflects the most recent data available in the period 2015–2022.

15. The significant number of women who are unable to make their own decisions regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights underscores the urgent need for policies and programmes that prioritize women’s autonomy and the provision of services. Overall, Africa still lags the global average by 6 percentage points in enacting laws and regulations in this area, as shown in figure 11.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Population Fund, “Tracking women’s decision-making for sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights: Sustainable Development Goal Indicator 5.6.1” (New York, 2020).

Figure 11  
**Extent to which countries have laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive healthcare, information and education, 2022**  
 (Percentage)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

### E. Overall prospects

16. Gender bias erodes the social fabric and diminishes the value of every individual. Despite some progress, legal frameworks for the promotion, enforcement and monitoring of gender equality in Africa remain below the global average. This is reflected in the prevalence of persistent challenges on the continent, such as child marriage, gender gaps in leadership across the public and private sectors and the limited autonomy of women and girls in decision-making. A shift in mindset is urgently needed for a wider acceptance of the fact that achieving political, economic and social equality for women is beneficial for every person in Africa.

## IV. Sustainable economic growth and employment

Table 3  
**Sustainable Development Goal 8 and associated goals of Agenda 2063**

2030 Agenda	Agenda 2063
Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Goal 4 – Transformed economies and job creation Goal 7 – Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities Goal 5 – Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production

### A. Sustainable Development Goals target 8.1 and indicator 8.1.1

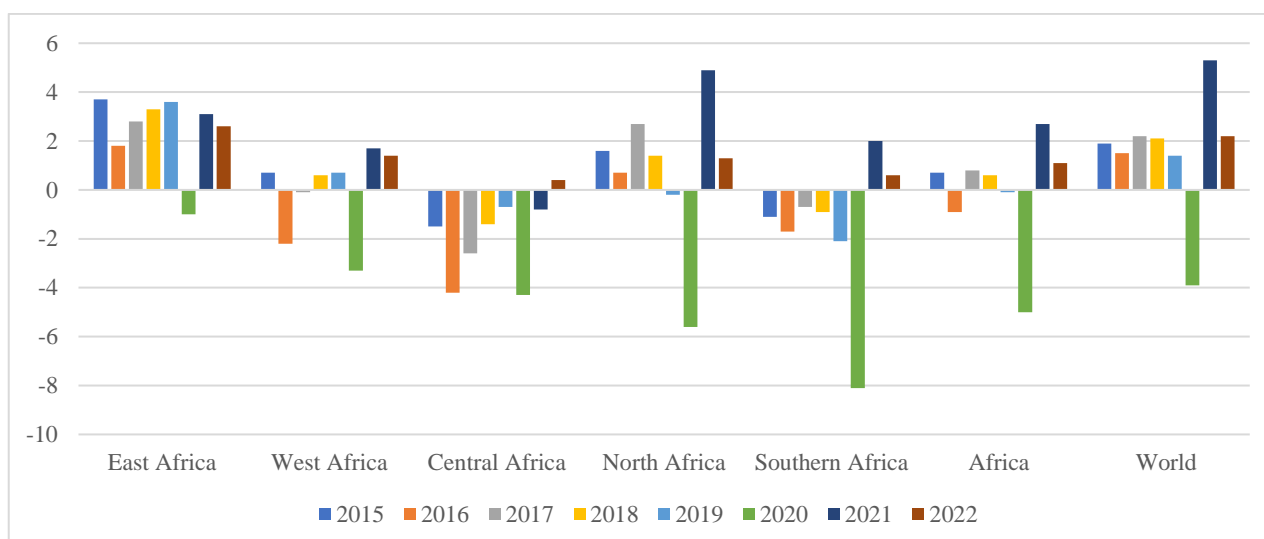
17. African economies have been navigating economic growth imperatives in a complex, challenging and increasingly uncertain global economy. Governments are making difficult decisions to secure macroeconomic stability and finances while their

populations suffer from various hardships, including a high cost of living.<sup>5</sup> Meanwhile, multiple crises persist, such as transnational and internal conflicts, climate change and tight financial conditions. Despite those challenges, estimates show that Africa accounted for 9 of the world's top 20 fastest-growing economies in 2024.<sup>6</sup> Real gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to grow from an estimated 2.9 per cent in 2024 to 3.8 per cent in 2025 and 4.1 per cent in 2026, which are higher than the projected global averages of 2.8, 2.8 and 2.9 per cent in those years, respectively.<sup>7</sup>

18. Calculations by the Economic Commission for Africa reveal that the annual GDP growth rate per capita on the continent remains low, averaging -0.01 per cent from 2015 to 2022, compared with the global average of 1.59 per cent in the same period. In Africa, the rate hovered at about 1 per cent prior to 2020 and dipped to -5 per cent when the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic hit in 2020, as shown in figure 12. In 2021, the rate recovered well, rising to 2.7 per cent, but dropped again to 1.1 per cent in 2022. There have been variations among the subregions. East and North Africa averaged 2.49 per cent and 0.85 per cent, respectively, from 2015 to 2022, but the rate was negative in the other subregions over the same period.

Figure 12

**Annual growth rate of real gross domestic product per capita, 2015–2022**  
(Percentage)



Source: ECA calculations.

## B. Sustainable Development Goals target 8.2 and indicator 8.2.1

19. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), labour force productivity on the continent, as evidenced by the annual growth rate of output, measured in real GDP, per worker, lags world averages,<sup>8</sup> as shown in figure 13. In 2020, following the outbreak of COVID-19, a negative annual growth rate of -3.06 per cent was recorded, compared with -1.06 globally. A slow recovery in Africa to 1.31 per cent in 2021 was followed by negative growth of -0.45 per cent and -0.10 per cent in 2022 and 2023, respectively. It is projected that there will be positive growth of 0.76 per cent in 2024, which is still below the global average of 2.13 per cent.

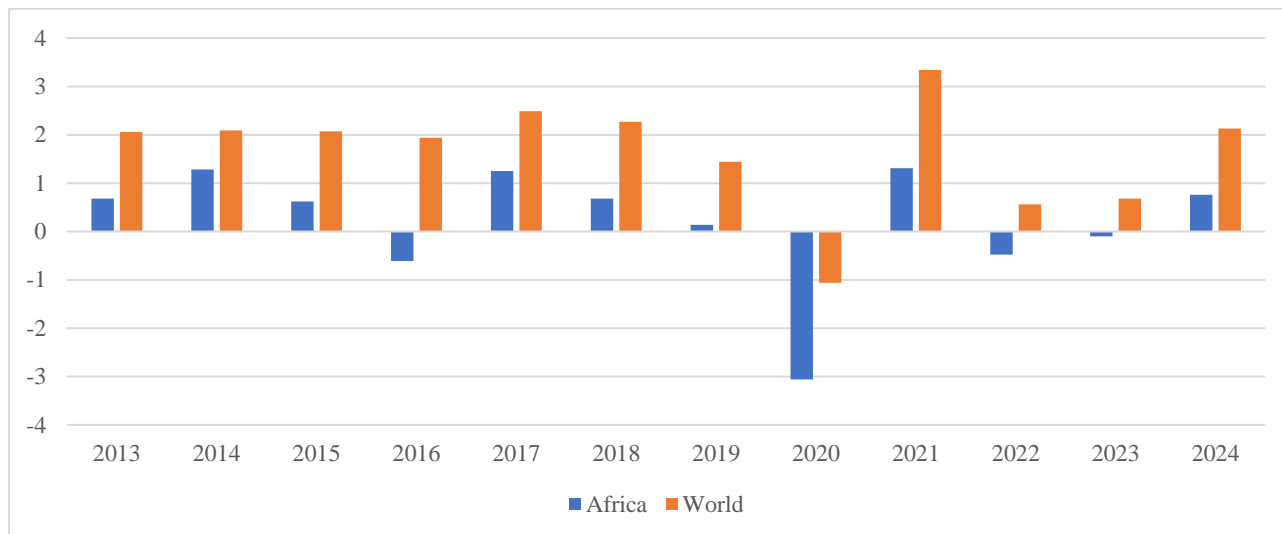
<sup>5</sup> For more information, see International Monetary Fund, *Regional Economic Outlook: Sub-Saharan Africa – Reforms amid Great Expectations* (Washington, D.C., 2024).

<sup>6</sup> Saad Quayyum and others, “Growth in sub-Saharan Africa is diverging”, International Monetary Fund, 14 November 2024.

<sup>7</sup> *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025* (United Nations publication, 2025).

<sup>8</sup> ILO, “SDG Labour Market Indicators (ILOSDG)”, ILOSTAT data explorer. Available at [https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer3/?lang=en&id=SDG\\_0821\\_NOC\\_RT\\_A](https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer3/?lang=en&id=SDG_0821_NOC_RT_A) (accessed on 21 November 2024).

Figure 13  
**Annual growth rate of real gross domestic product per employed person**  
 (Percentage)



Source: ILO, “SDG Labour Market Indicators (ILOSDG)”, ILOSTAT data explorer. Available at [https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer3/?lang=en&id=SDG\\_0821\\_NOC\\_RT\\_A](https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer3/?lang=en&id=SDG_0821_NOC_RT_A) (accessed on 16 December 2024).

### C. Sustainable Development Goals target 8.3 and indicator 8.3.1

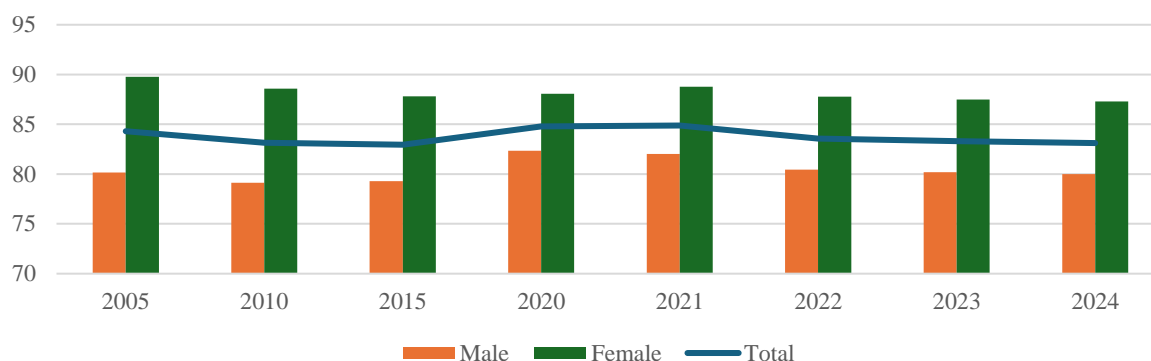
20. Informal employment in Africa remains at high levels. There has been a consistently higher proportion of women in the informal sector compared with men over the past two decades. Sub-Saharan Africa has the largest share of female entrepreneurs globally, but they are often self-employed out of necessity and are concentrated in the informal sector.<sup>9</sup> Very limited progress has been made in formalizing employment in Africa, as evidenced by rates of informal employment of 83.0, 84.8 and 83.1 per cent observed in 2015, 2020 and 2024, respectively,<sup>10</sup> as shown in figure 14. In addition to the high informal employment rate, many employed persons are not in decent employment: some 29 per cent of workers lived in conditions of extreme working poverty in 2023, slightly down from 30 per cent in 2015.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, *2018/2019 Women’s Entrepreneurship Report* (London, 2019).

<sup>10</sup> ILO, “SDG Labour Market Indicators (ILOSDG)”, ILOSTAT data explorer. Available at [https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer55/?lang=en&id=SDG\\_0831\\_SEX\\_ECO\\_RT\\_A](https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer55/?lang=en&id=SDG_0831_SEX_ECO_RT_A) (accessed on 21 November 2024).

<sup>11</sup> ILO, “SDG Labour Market Indicators (ILOSDG)”, ILOSTAT data explorer. Available at [https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer55/?lang=en&id=SDG\\_0111\\_SEX\\_ECO\\_RT\\_A](https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer55/?lang=en&id=SDG_0111_SEX_ECO_RT_A) (accessed on 3 December 2024).

Figure 14  
**Informal employment as a proportion of total employment in Africa, 2005–2024**  
 (Percentage)



Source: ILO, “SDG Labour Market Indicators (ILOSDG)”, ILOSTAT data explorer. Available at [https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer55/?lang=en&id=SDG\\_0831\\_SEX\\_ECO\\_RT\\_A](https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer55/?lang=en&id=SDG_0831_SEX_ECO_RT_A) (accessed on 21 November 2024).

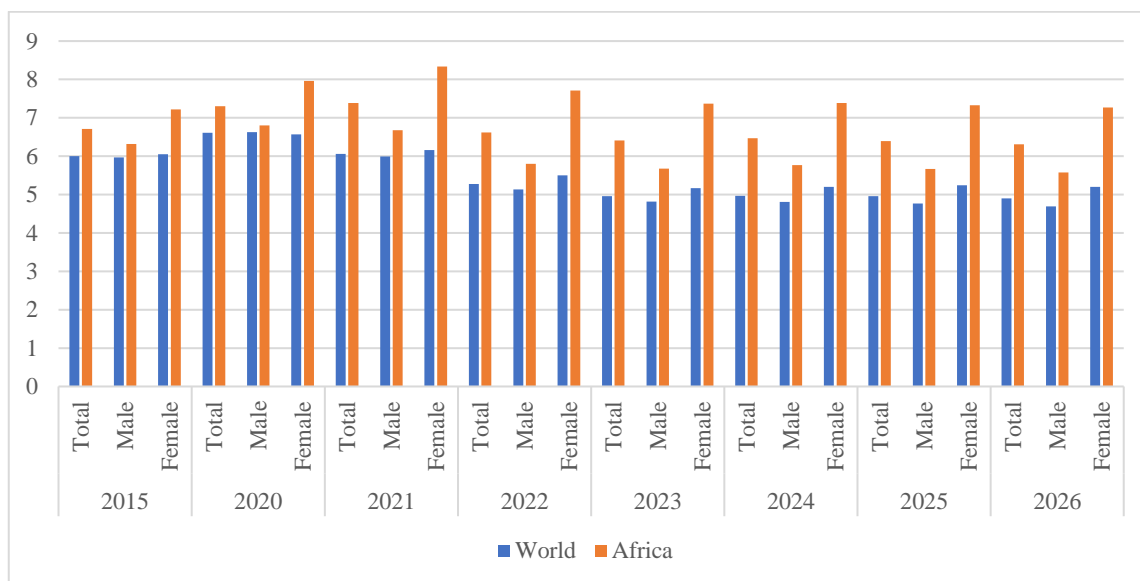
#### D. Sustainable Development Goals target 8.5 and indicator 8.5.2

21. Unemployment rates in Africa are generally low, averaging 6.8 per cent between 2015 and 2024, which is only slightly higher than the global average of 5.6 per cent in the same period,<sup>12</sup> as shown in figure 15. Working poverty remains a challenge, however, in particular in low-income countries. Moreover, youth unemployment is higher than that of other populations, averaging 10.5 per cent from 2015 to 2024, which is, albeit, lower than the world average of 13.6 per cent in the same period,<sup>13</sup> as shown in figure 16. Large disparities exist across countries and subregions in Africa, with youth unemployment notably higher in middle-income countries than in other countries. The youth unemployment rate in South Africa is among the highest in the world. Unemployment of women exceeds that of men, reflecting unequal access to good-quality education and employment opportunities.

<sup>12</sup> ILO, “SDG Labour Market Indicators (ILOSDG)”, ILOSTAT data explorer. Available at [https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer20/?lang=en&id=SDG\\_0852\\_SEX\\_AGE\\_RT\\_A](https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer20/?lang=en&id=SDG_0852_SEX_AGE_RT_A) (accessed on 9 December 2024).

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

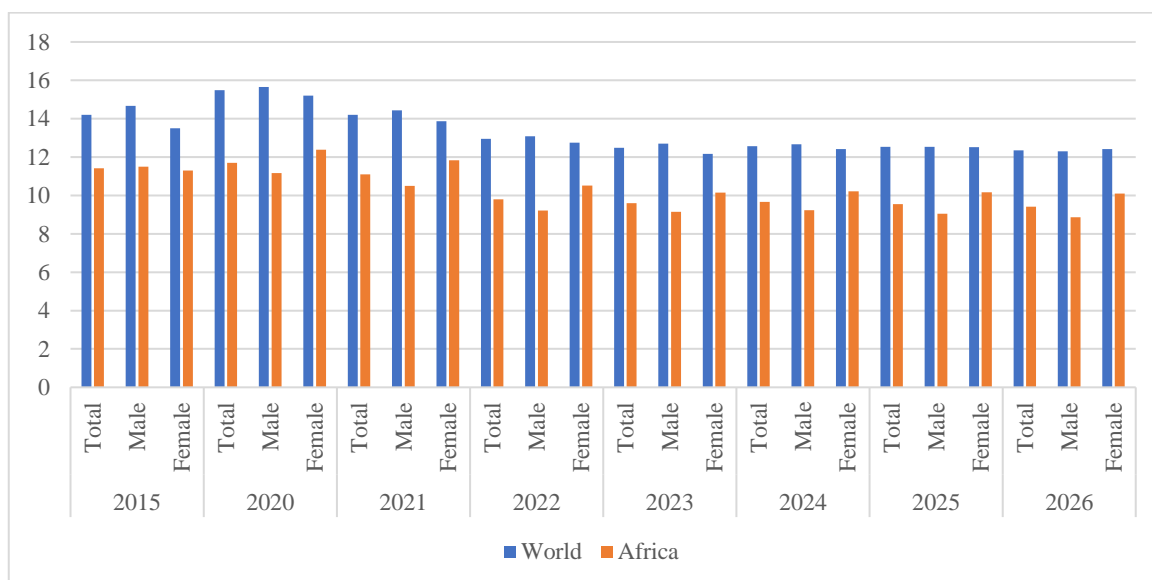
Figure 15  
**Unemployment in Africa and the world, 2015–2026**  
 (Percentage of the labour force)



Source: ILO, “SDG Labour Market Indicators (ILOSDG)”, ILOSTAT data explorer. Available at [https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer20/?lang=en&id=SDG\\_0852\\_SEX\\_AGE\\_RT\\_A](https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer20/?lang=en&id=SDG_0852_SEX_AGE_RT_A) (accessed on 9 December 2024).

Note: Data for 2024–2026 are projected.

Figure 16  
**Youth unemployment in Africa and the world, 2015–2026**  
 (Percentage of the labour force)



Source: ILO, “SDG Labour Market Indicators (ILOSDG)” (see figure 15).

Note: Data for 2024–2026 are projected.

**E. Sustainable Development Goals target 8.6 and indicator 8.6.1**

22. For young people, the transition from education to the labour market and the lack of productive and decent jobs remain a challenge. The proportion of people aged 15–24 years who are not in education, employment or training in Africa has remained

broadly the same since 2015, at 22.5 per cent.<sup>14</sup> A wide gender gap of about 12.5 percentage points exists between young women and young men: their rates were 29.6 and 17.1 per cent, respectively, in 2024.

## F. Sustainable Development Goals target 8.7 and indicator 8.7.1

23. Child labour remains a persistent challenge in Africa. The latest estimates show that Africa is home to the greatest number of children in child labour worldwide. More than one in five children – 21.6 per cent – aged from 5 to 17 years were in child labour in the region in 2020, which, in absolute numbers, is some 92.2 million children.<sup>15</sup> That figure is more than three times higher than in any other region. By comparison, in sub-Saharan Africa in 2008, 65.1 million children, or 25.3 per cent of the age group, were in child labour. Furthermore, in 2020, 9.7 per cent of African children were in hazardous work, amounting to 41.4 million children, the highest for any region in the world. The agricultural sector accounted for about 80.7 per cent of those children in child labour in 2020, which, in absolute terms, was 74.4 million children.<sup>16</sup>

24. Efforts are being made at the international and regional levels to combat child labour. All African member States of ILO have ratified the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), which has helped to make the Convention the first to be ratified by all member States of ILO and the most rapidly ratified ILO Convention. Furthermore, in February 2020, the Executive Council of the African Union adopted a 10-year plan of action on the eradication of child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery.

## G. Overall prospects

25. Africa must prioritize productive employment across sectors, diversify economies and adopt macroeconomic policies to attain sustainable economic growth and create jobs. It is crucial to promote multiple pathways for the formalization of informal workers and businesses, and design and implement targeted policies to address the barriers faced by young people, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, in order to enable their active participation in the labour market.

## V. Life below water

Table 4  
Sustainable Development Goal 14 and associated goals of Agenda 2063

2030 Agenda	Agenda 2063
Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Goal 6 – Blue/ocean economy for accelerated economic growth

## A. Sustainable Development Goals target 14.1 and indicator 14.1.1

26. Marine pollution poses threats to ecosystems and human health. In Africa, over 2 million tonnes of litter entered the beach in 2022, a rise from 1.7 million tonnes in 2017. Worldwide, that figure increased from 10.5 million tonnes to 12.4 million tonnes in the same period. In Central and West Africa, more than 95 per cent of beach litter

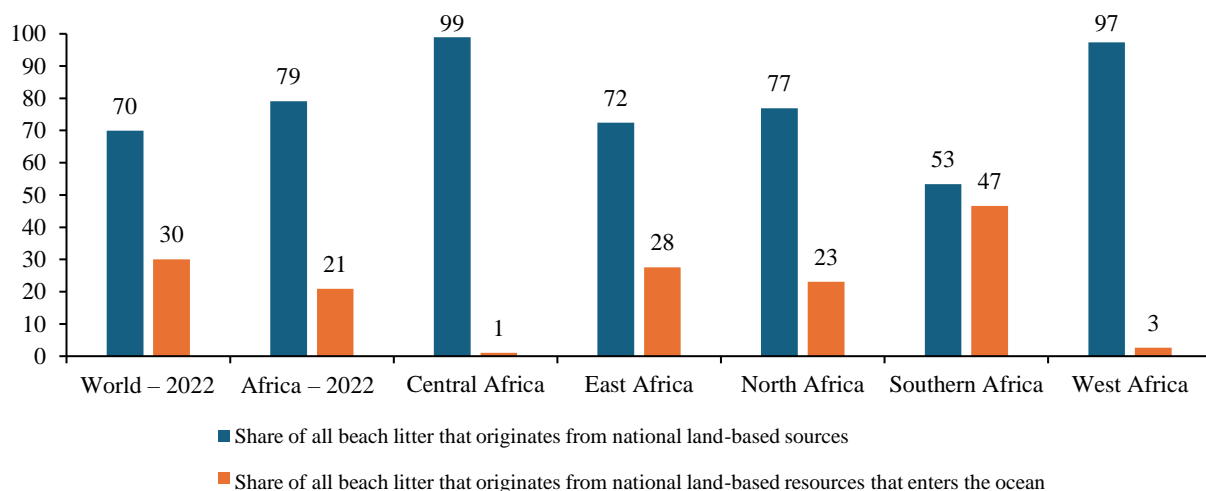
<sup>14</sup> ILO, “SDG Labour Market Indicators (ILOSDG)”, ILOSTAT data explorer. Available at [https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer44/?lang=en&id=SDG\\_0861\\_SEX\\_RT\\_A](https://rshiny.ilo.org/dataexplorer44/?lang=en&id=SDG_0861_SEX_RT_A) (accessed on 22 November 2024).

<sup>15</sup> ILO and the United Nations Children’s Fund, *Child Labour: Global Estimates 2020, Trends and the Road Forward* (New York, 2021).

<sup>16</sup> ILO, “Child labour statistical profile: Africa” (Geneva, 2021).

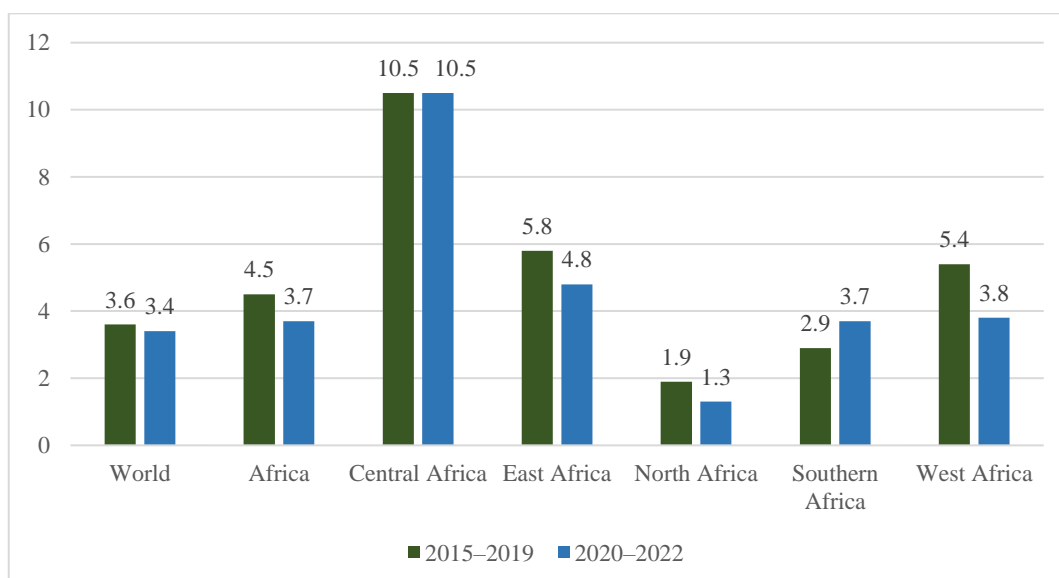
originated from land-based sources in 2021/22, as shown in figure 17, highlighting weaknesses in governance and infrastructure and a struggle to keep pace with the growing impact of human activity. A positive development has been observed in the reduction of marine eutrophication. The degree of chlorophyll-a deviations on the African coast averaged 3.7 per cent during 2020–2022, which is a drop from 4.5 per cent during 2015–2019, as shown in figure 18. The improvement was potentially driven by a temporary reduction in industrial and agricultural activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>17</sup>

Figure 17  
**Marine waste from land-based sources, 2021/22**  
 (Percentage)



Source: United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

Figure 18  
**Marine eutrophication: average levels of chlorophyll-a deviations (remote sensing), 2015–2019 and 2020–2022** (Percentage)



Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

<sup>17</sup> For more information, see Maryam R. Al Shehhi, “Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on oceans” (2020).

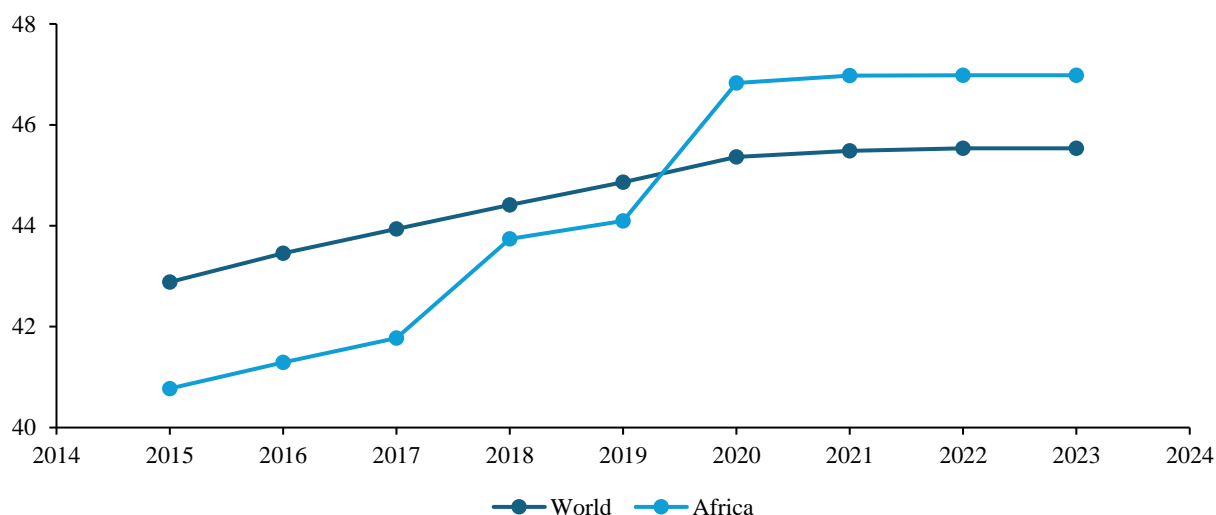


## B. Sustainable Development Goals target 14.5 and indicator 14.5.1

27. Commendable progress has been made in protecting African marine key biodiversity areas. In 2023, Africa protected an average of 46.7 per cent of such areas, slightly surpassing the global average of 45.5 per cent, as shown in figure 19. Reaching that level was largely the result of substantial progress made in a small number of countries, including the Congo, Morocco, Seychelles and the Sudan.

Figure 19

**Protected proportion of marine key biodiversity areas, 2015–2023**  
(Percentage)



*Source:* United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

## C. Sustainable Development Goals target 14.6 and indicator 14.6.1

28. The commitment to ending illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and overfishing became a legally binding international obligation with the adoption of the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies by members of the World Trade Organization in 2022. Since then, however, there has been little acceptance of the Agreement in Africa: only 18 countries on the continent have submitted their instruments of acceptance.<sup>18</sup>

## D. Sustainable Development Goals target 14.b and indicator 14.b.1

29. Safeguarding small-scale fisheries is essential for promoting economic equity and supporting the welfare of African coastal communities. In 2022, however, 34 African countries scored below the continental and global averages for the degree of implementation of legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks that recognize and protect the access rights of small-scale fisheries. In the interest of human welfare and the preservation of cultural heritage, it is crucial to protect the rights of small-scale fishers in the face of large-scale commercial fishing.

## E. Overall prospects

30. African oceans must contend with overfishing, pollution, habitat destruction and the impact of climate change, which threaten their sustainability and the

<sup>18</sup> For more information, see the website of the World Trade Organization on the Agreement: [www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/rulesneg\\_e/fish\\_e/fish\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/rulesneg_e/fish_e/fish_e.htm).

communities that depend on them. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has highlighted significant underfunding of the sustainable ocean economy, with official development assistance (ODA) for ocean-related sectors averaging just \$3 billion annually between 2013 and 2018.<sup>19</sup> As a result, of all the Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 14 is funded the least. Development and financing partners should increase financial and technical support for ocean-based initiatives, using innovative financing instruments that do not burden recipients unduly.

## VI. Partnerships for sustainable development

Table 5

### Sustainable Development Goal 17 and associated goals of Agenda 2063

<i>2030 Agenda</i>	<i>Agenda 2063</i>
Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	Goal 9 – Key continental financial and monetary institutions are established and functional Goal 10 – World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa Goal 20 – Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development

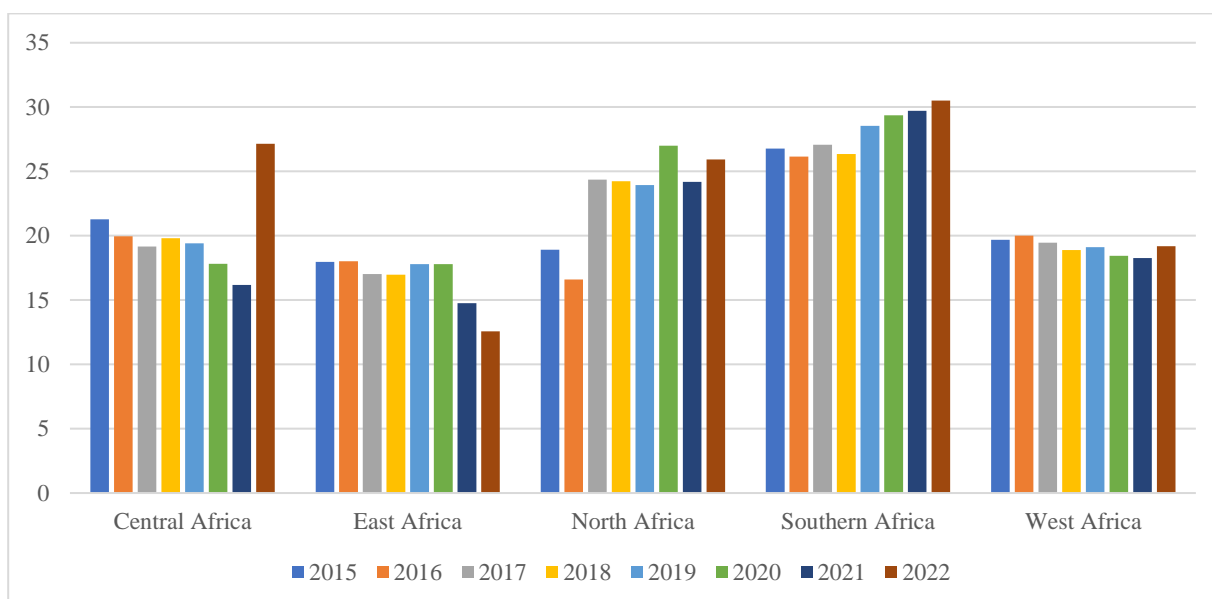
### A. Sustainable Development Goals target 17.1 and indicators 17.1.1 and 17.1.2

31. Sustainable Development Goal 17 concerns the importance of global collaboration, development financing, trade, technology and innovation, statistics and capacity-building for driving the achievement of all the Goals. Progress and setbacks have featured at both the global and regional level in those areas. African countries are grappling with multifaceted crises that are reducing their fiscal space and ability to invest in development priorities. Historically low tax-to-GDP ratios have compounded the already constrained financing landscape on the continent.

32. Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP in Africa has consistently been lower than the global average. In 2022, the rate in Africa was 21.0 per cent, whereas the global average was 33.2 per cent. As figure 20 shows, at 30.2 per cent, Southern Africa performed relatively well among the five subregions in that year, with comparatively higher proportions.

<sup>19</sup> OECD, *Sustainable Ocean for All: Harnessing the Benefits of Sustainable Ocean Economies for Developing Countries – The Development Dimension* (Paris, 2020).

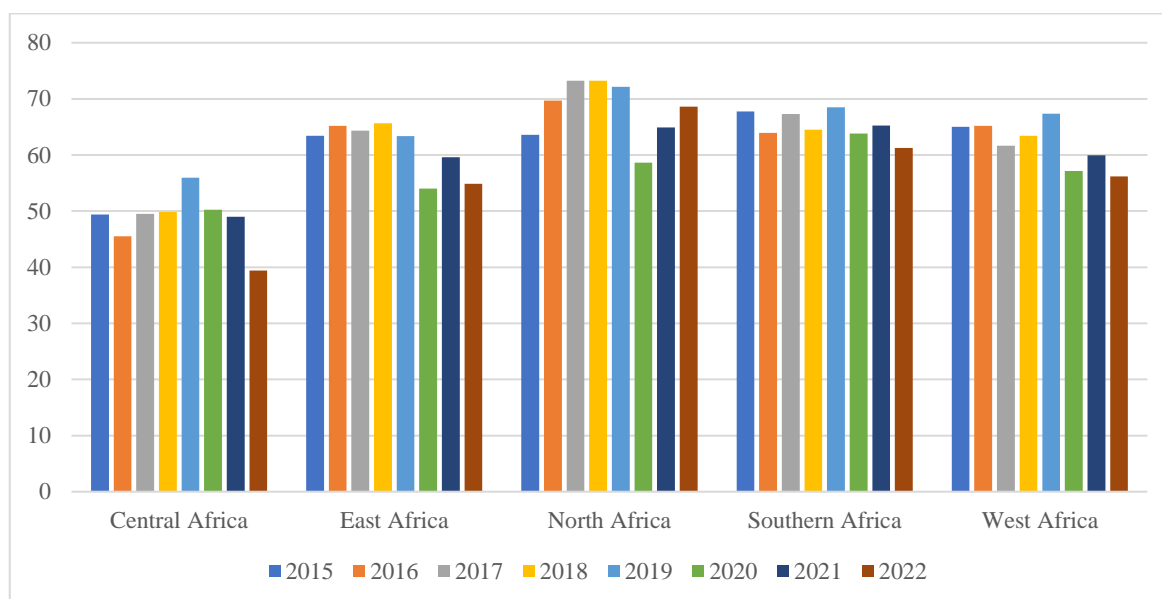
Figure 20  
**Total central government revenue, 2015–2022**  
 (Percentage of gross domestic product)



*Source:* ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

33. At 57.4 per cent, the average proportion of domestic budgets in Africa that was funded by domestic taxation in 2022 was marginally lower than the global average of 59.0 per cent. The African average slightly declined from the 2021 level of 60.7 per cent. As shown in figure 21, North and Southern Africa had the highest proportions of all the subregions in 2022: 68.6 and 61.2 per cent, respectively, of their budgets were financed through domestic taxation in that year.

Figure 21  
**Proportion of domestic budget funded from domestic taxation, 2015–2022**  
 (Percentage of gross domestic product)



Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

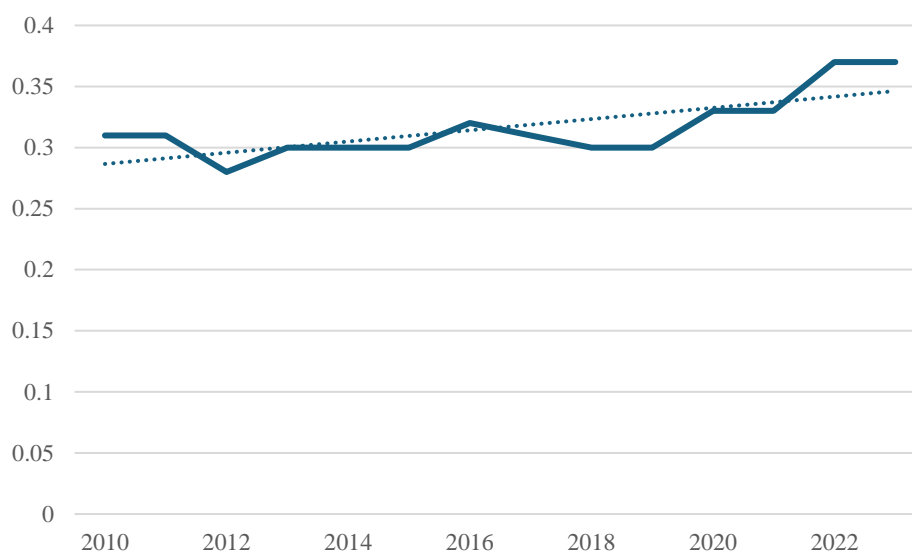
## B. Sustainable Development Goals target 17.2 and indicator 17.2.1

34. Opportunities for concessional financing are increasingly limited. As shown in figure 22, on average, members of the Development Assistance Committee of OECD allocated 0.37 per cent of their gross national income to ODA, grant equivalent, in 2023, up from 0.22 per cent in 2000.<sup>20</sup> That is less than half of the target of 0.7 per cent included in Sustainable Development Goal target 17.2, however. In 2023, only Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway and Sweden achieved the target of 0.7 per cent. In addition, net ODA from Development Assistance Committee members to Africa in 2023 amounted to \$34.5 billion, representing a 6.8 per cent decrease in real terms compared with the 2021 level.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> OECD, “DAC1: Flows by provider (ODA+OOF+Private)”, OECD Data Explorer. Available at [https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?fs\[0\]=Topic%2C1%7CDevelopment%23DEV%23%7COfficial%20Development%20Assistance%20%28ODA%29%23DEV\\_ODA%23&pg=0&fc=Topic&bp=true&snb=19&df\[ds\]=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df\[id\]=DSD\\_DAC1%40DF\\_DAC1&df\[ag\]=OECD.DCD.FSD&dq=DAC...1140%2B1160.Q.&lom=LASTNPERIODS&lo=10&to\[TIME\\_PERIOD\]=false](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?fs[0]=Topic%2C1%7CDevelopment%23DEV%23%7COfficial%20Development%20Assistance%20%28ODA%29%23DEV_ODA%23&pg=0&fc=Topic&bp=true&snb=19&df[ds]=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df[id]=DSD_DAC1%40DF_DAC1&df[ag]=OECD.DCD.FSD&dq=DAC...1140%2B1160.Q.&lom=LASTNPERIODS&lo=10&to[TIME_PERIOD]=false) (accessed on 2 February 2025).

<sup>21</sup> OECD, “DAC2A: Aid (ODA) disbursements to countries and regions”, OECD Data Explorer. Available at [https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?lc=en&df\[ds\]=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df\[id\]=DSD\\_DAC2%40DF\\_DAC2A&df\[ag\]=OECD.DCD.FSD&fs\[0\]=Topic%2C0%7CDevelopment%23DEV%23&pg=0&fc=Topic&bp=true&snb=10&dq=.DPGC.206.USD.Q&lom=LASTNPERIODS&lo=5&to\[TIME\\_PERIOD\]=false](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?lc=en&df[ds]=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df[id]=DSD_DAC2%40DF_DAC2A&df[ag]=OECD.DCD.FSD&fs[0]=Topic%2C0%7CDevelopment%23DEV%23&pg=0&fc=Topic&bp=true&snb=10&dq=.DPGC.206.USD.Q&lom=LASTNPERIODS&lo=5&to[TIME_PERIOD]=false) (accessed on 2 February 2025).

Figure 22  
**Average allocation to official development assistance by members of the Development Assistance Committee, 2010–2023**  
 (Percentage of gross national income)



Source: OECD, “DAC1: Flows by provider (ODA+OOF+Private)”, OECD Data Explorer. Available at [https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?fs\[0\]=Topic%2C1%7CDevelopment%23DEV%23%7COfficial%20Development%20Assistance%20%28ODA%29%23DEV\\_ODA%23&pg=0&fc=Topic&bp=true&snb=19&df\[ds\]=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df\[id\]=DSD\\_DAC1%40DF\\_DAC1&df\[ag\]=OECD.DCD.FSD&dq=DAC...1140%2B1160..Q.&lom=LASTNPERIODS&lo=10&to\[TIME\\_PERIOD\]=false](https://data-explorer.oecd.org/vis?fs[0]=Topic%2C1%7CDevelopment%23DEV%23%7COfficial%20Development%20Assistance%20%28ODA%29%23DEV_ODA%23&pg=0&fc=Topic&bp=true&snb=19&df[ds]=dsDisseminateFinalDMZ&df[id]=DSD_DAC1%40DF_DAC1&df[ag]=OECD.DCD.FSD&dq=DAC...1140%2B1160..Q.&lom=LASTNPERIODS&lo=10&to[TIME_PERIOD]=false) (accessed on 2 February 2025).

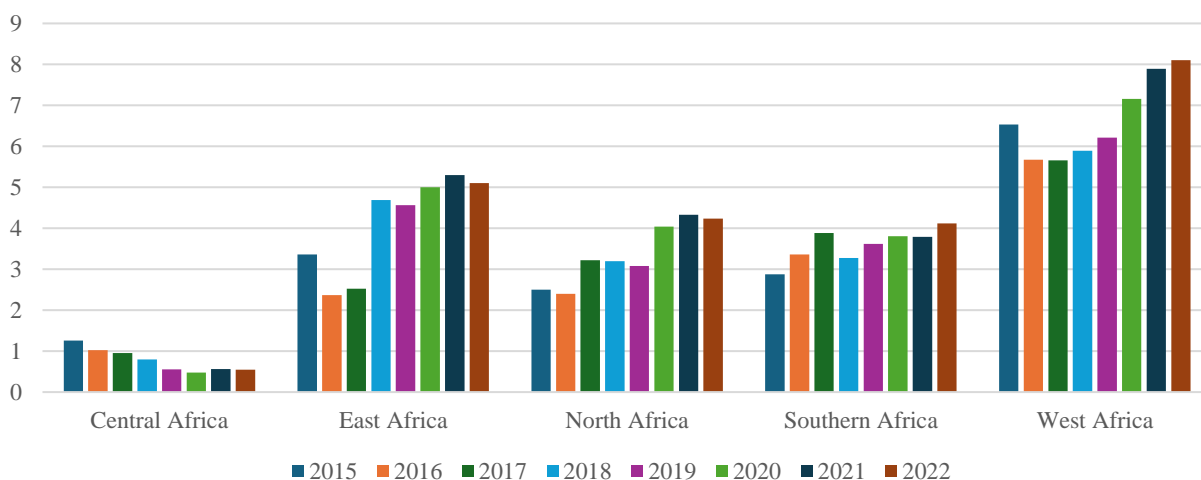
### C. Sustainable Development Goals target 17.3 and indicators 17.3.1 and 17.3.2

35. Remittances are a critical source of development finance in Africa. Their volume and share of GDP are significantly higher on the continent than at the global level. They accounted for 3.4 per cent of African GDP in 2022, compared with the global average of 0.8 per cent. As illustrated in figure 23, there are some differences at the subregional level, with West and East Africa receiving greater volumes of remittances as a proportion of GDP, compared with the other subregions.

36. Inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) to Africa dropped by 3.4 per cent to \$52.6 billion in 2023, representing only 6 per cent of the total FDI to developing economies.<sup>22</sup> In addition, FDI has declined across most of Africa, highlighting the relative volatility of FDI in comparison with remittances.

<sup>22</sup> *World Investment Report 2024: Investment Facilitation and Digital Government* (United Nations publication, 2024).

Figure 23  
**Volume of remittances in United States dollars as a proportion of total gross domestic product, 2015–2022**  
 (Percentage)

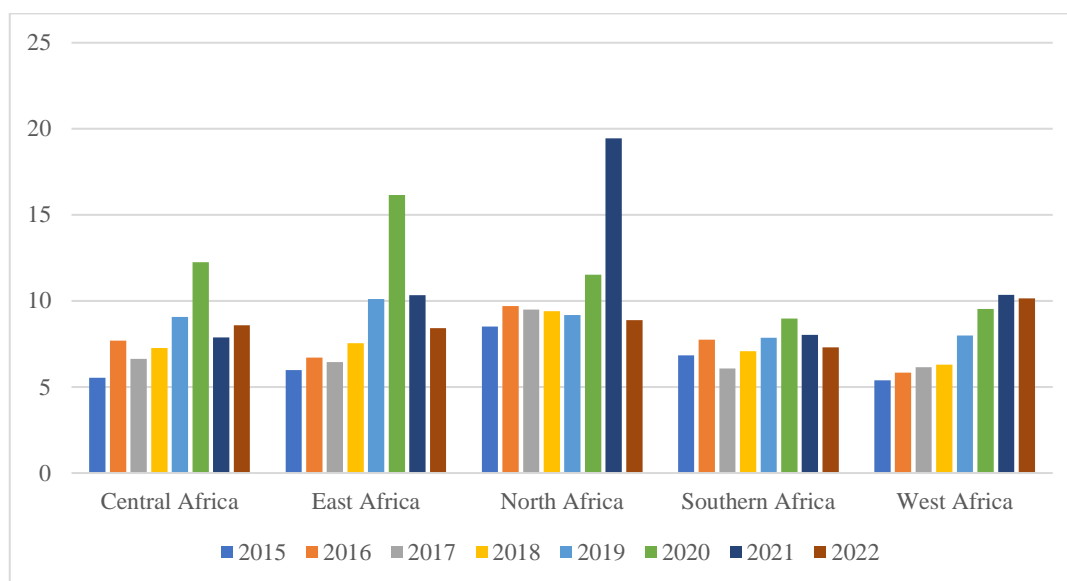


Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

#### D. Sustainable Development Goals target 17.4 and indicator 17.4.1

37. As a proportion of exports of goods and services, debt service obligations for Africa as a whole rose from 8.3 per cent in 2015 to 9.6 per cent in 2022, which is below the 2021 level of 11.5 per cent. As shown in figure 24, since 2015, North Africa has tended to have the highest proportion of debt service obligation. For North Africa, the obligations reduced by over half between 2021 and 2022, from a staggering high of 19.4 per cent to 8.9 per cent. In 2022, debt service obligations declined from the 2021 levels in all subregions except Central Africa.

Figure 24  
**Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services, 2015–2022**  
 (Percentage)

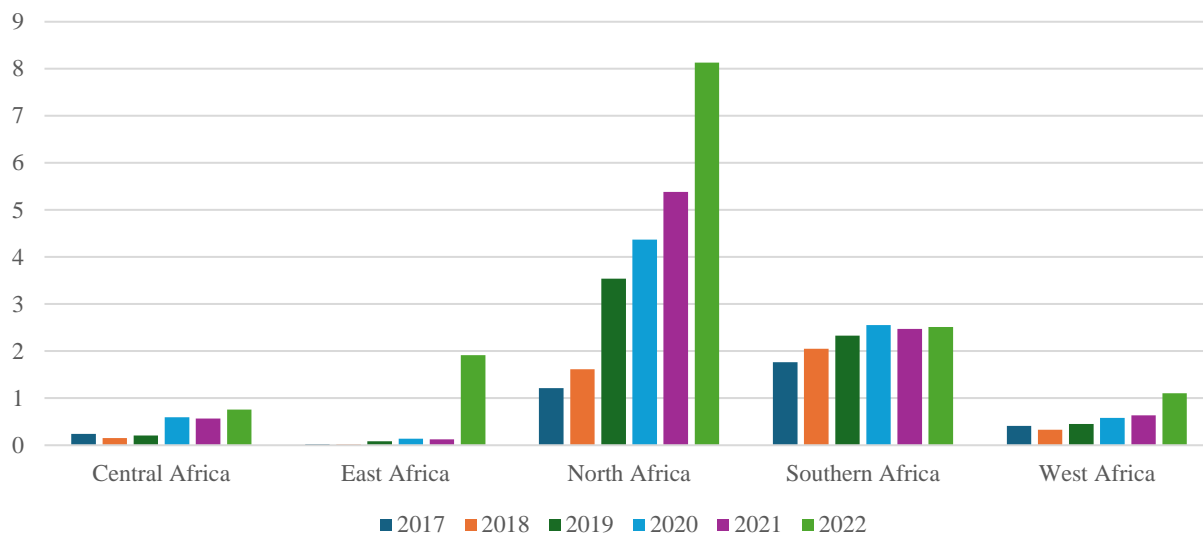


Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

#### **E. Sustainable Development Goals targets 17.6 and 17.8 and indicators 17.6.1 and 17.8.1**

38. Consistent with global trends, the proportion of individuals using the Internet has been on the rise in Africa. Among the subregions, North Africa has the highest proportion of individuals using the internet, and West and Central Africa have the lowest proportions, as shown in figure 25. In East Africa in 2022, the proportion grew dramatically, albeit from a very low level in 2021. The average number of fixed broadband subscriptions in African countries, however, is substantially lower than the global average. In 2022, there were 17.8 subscriptions to fixed broadband services per 100 people worldwide, compared with 2.5 subscriptions per 100 people in Africa.

Figure 25  
**Fixed broadband subscriptions, 2017–2022**  
 (Number per 100 people)

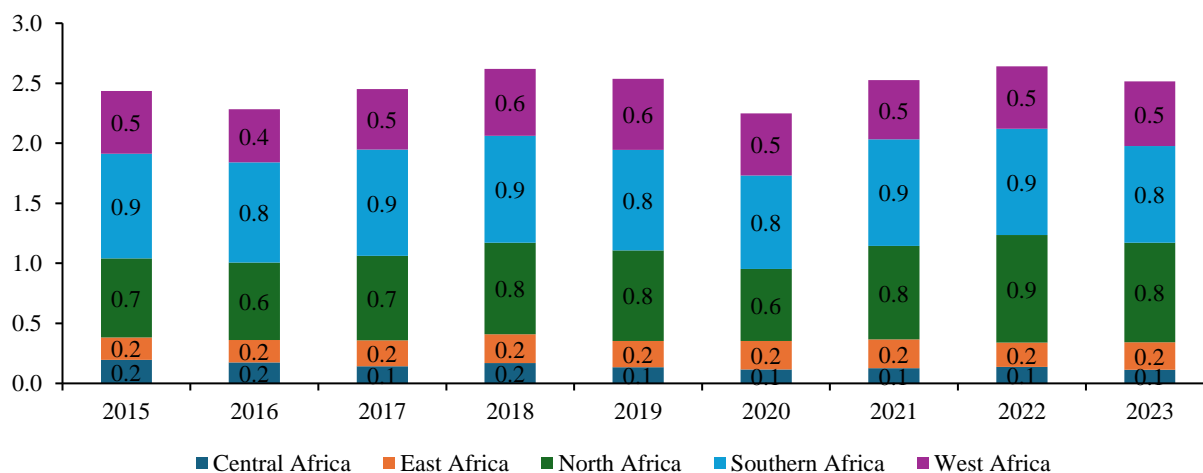


Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

### F. Sustainable Development Goals targets 17.11 and indicator 17.11.1

39. The ongoing implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area can help to harness regional integration opportunities in the face of challenges to intra-African trade. The African share of global merchandise and service exports remains low, and that situation has barely changed since 2015. As shown in figure 26, the African share of merchandise goods has fluctuated between 2.4 and 2.5 per cent since 2015, reaching 2.52 per cent in 2023. North and Southern Africa each contribute about 0.8 per cent, and Central Africa accounts for a paltry 0.1 per cent. The situation for service exports is even worse: Africa accounted for only 1.65 per cent of global service exports in 2021.

Figure 26  
**Share of global merchandise exports by African subregion, 2015–2023**  
 (Percentage)



Source: ECA, Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 1).

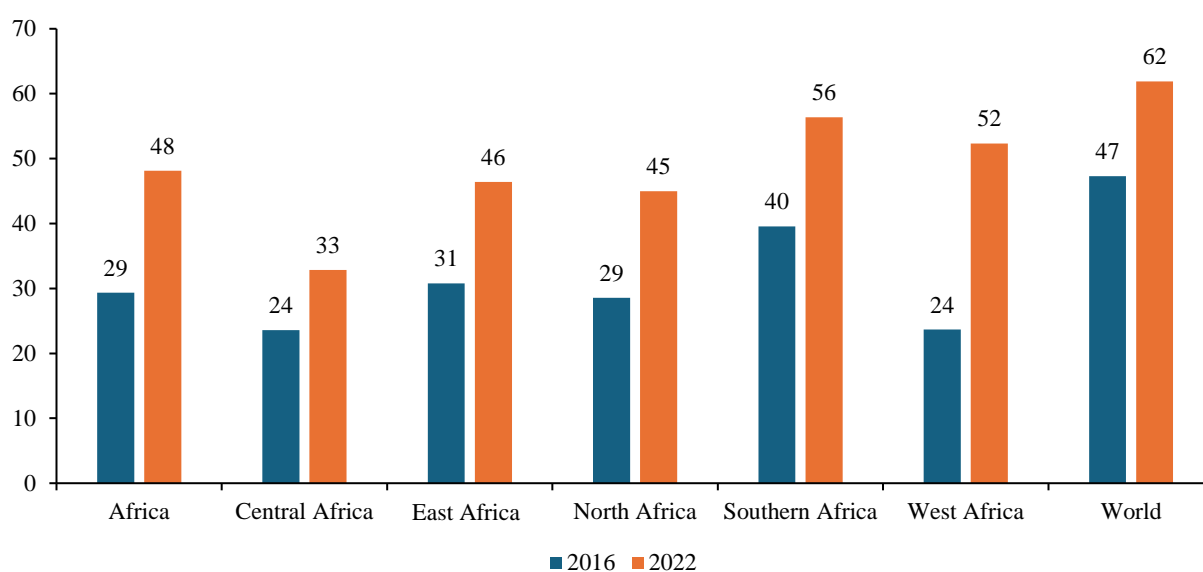


## G. Sustainable Development Goals targets 17.18 and indicators 17.18.1

40. Reliable and timely data are essential for monitoring, reporting and evaluating progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of national development agendas. The data infrastructure in Africa has improved over the past decade. Scores for the data infrastructure performance index, which is used to measure the readiness and effectiveness of a country's statistical systems in collecting, processing and disseminating data, rose across all African subregions from 2016 to 2022, as shown in figure 27. West Africa made the most significant progress in that time. The improvement is the result of increased investment in data infrastructure and stronger implementation efforts.

Figure 27

### Data infrastructure performance index scores in Africa and the world, 2016 and 2022



*Source:* United Nations, Global Sustainable Development Goal Indicators Database (see figure 4).

*Note:* The index operates on a scale of 0–100. A maximum score of 100 indicates that the subject meets all index criteria in full; a minimum score of 0 indicates that the subject has not met any criteria.

## H. Overall prospects

41. There have been mixed trends in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 17 and global partnerships. The continent faces rising debt servicing costs, limited contribution from domestic resources and insufficient opportunities from ODA, despite an upward trend in that assistance since 2000. In contrast, remittances to African countries are on the rise, and FDI flows as a proportion of GDP have rebounded. Nevertheless, concessional financing must be scaled up if the continent is to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations and goals of Agenda 2063, and withstand the socioeconomic turbulence that climate change causes.

## VII. Key messages and recommendations

42. Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 will require a holistic reform of the global financial architecture in order to secure financing for sustainable development from diverse sources. Policymakers should seek opportunities to tap into traditional and innovative sources of financing. In addition, the reform must address global economic challenges and support inclusive growth. Specifically, the Sustainable Debt Coalition initiative, the promotion of debt-for-climate swaps, sustainability-linked bonds and blended finance, and increased private sector engagement provide opportunities to bridge the financing gap for the Sustainable Development Goals and the second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063. It is critical to leverage the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development to develop a unified approach in order to address the unique needs of African countries.

43. To create decent work and livelihood opportunities, investment should be targeted at productive employment across sectors, economies should be diversified and macroeconomic policies focused on job creation should be adopted. Macroeconomic frameworks should evolve, with a view to creating decent, inclusive and sustainable jobs, and explicit employment targets should be integrated into national budgets, monetary policies and development plans. Action must be accelerated by increasing the availability of opportunities for decent employment with access to social protection for the millions of workers in the informal economy.

44. The Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area offers a transformative opportunity to boost intra-African trade by 34 per cent in 2045, compared with a scenario without the Agreement.<sup>23</sup> Addressing trade barriers and infrastructure deficits and fostering national productive capacities, regional value addition and trade integration will strengthen the economic competitiveness of the continent.

45. In addition, it is essential to invest in social protection for marginalized populations, in order to mitigate shocks, and ensure the provision of basic services, such as access to health, education, water and sanitation. To make the most of those investments, they must be climate-sensitive and be supported by strong institutions, global partnerships and effective governance. Capacity development is crucial for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the second 10-year implementation plan. Limited access to decent education, skill gaps and inadequate institutional frameworks should be addressed through innovative, inclusive and accessible training initiatives.

46. Countries must combat all forms of violence against women and girls in all spheres of life, including online, and achieve gender equality. It is vital to strengthen policies on the elimination of domestic violence and prioritize the protection of women and girls by investing in shelters and providing essential resources for survivors. Governments should enforce laws that guarantee women's rights to property and inheritance; ensure legal recourse is accessible to women facing discrimination; establish land title programmes in which women's ownership and control over land are explicitly recognized; and conduct community education campaigns to raise awareness of women's rights to economic resources. In addition, countries must mainstream budgeting that is sensitive to gender in order to ensure the equitable allocation of resources and the adequate funding of gender initiatives.

47. Measuring progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is constrained by fragmented statistical systems and data gaps. Strengthening national statistical offices, leveraging big data and geospatial technologies and fostering data-sharing and the pooling of resources will improve the accuracy and timeliness of reporting. Governments should prioritize the collection of high-quality disaggregated

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<sup>23</sup> ECA, "Implementing the AfCFTA Agreement will boost intra-African trade and industrialization", 18 January 2023.

data for effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The rapid digital transformation in Africa offers opportunities to accelerate development. Expanding digital infrastructure, improving access to technology and bridging the digital divide remain critical challenges, however.

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