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Statutory issues

Report on United Nations support for the African Union and its African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development programme

I. Introduction

1. The present report contains a summary of the support extended during the period April 2025–March 2026 by entities of the United Nations development system working in Africa to the African Union, the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development and other entities of the African Union, including the African Peer Review Mechanism. It covers the pursuit of priorities at the continental and subregional levels, including the priorities set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.

II. Main outcomes of the high-level strategic engagement between the United Nations and the African Union

2. Through the adoption of General Assembly resolution 79/329, the United Nations reaffirmed its commitment to closer cooperation with the African Union, providing stronger foundations for joint action on peacebuilding, development and institutional resilience. Central to such cooperation are the three African Union-United Nations partnership frameworks,[1] which have become critical instruments for advancing peace and security, human rights and sustainable development across Africa. Anchored in shared responsibility and aligned priorities, the frameworks reflect renewed determination to support the continent's transformation, amid growing global uncertainty. In the resolution, the Assembly highlights enhanced cooperation through high-level strategic dialogues and college-to-college forums, fostering closer policy alignment between African Union Commissioners and senior officials of the United Nations. The strengthened partnership is increasingly critical, as geopolitical

* E/ECA/COE/44/1.

[1] The Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security; the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda; and the African Union-United Nations Joint Framework on Human Rights.

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tensions, conflicts and economic shocks strain peace and security systems, restrict access to development finance and heighten vulnerability across Africa.

3. The ninth United Nations-African Union annual conference was held in New York on 12 November 2025, co-chaired by the Secretary-General, António Guterres, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mahamoud Ali Youssouf. Participants reaffirmed the strength of their organizations' partnership, amid escalating global and continental challenges. Expressing concern over conflicts, humanitarian crises, climate change and disregard for international law, both leaders welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the three partnership frameworks, while also stressing the frameworks' interconnected nature and the need for sustained collaboration. The leaders underscored the primacy of political solutions and called for strengthened preventive diplomacy, mediation and coordination between African Union and United Nations representatives. Participants highlighted urgent multi-country security situations in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, along with country-specific situations in Libya, Madagascar, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan. They also underscored the need to advance the operationalization of Security Council resolution 2719 (2023), in which the Council had agreed to consider, on a case-by-case basis, closer cooperation between the two organizations to prevent violent conflict and its escalation.

4. On the joint fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063,[2] participants in the conference emphasized accelerated, results-driven cooperation through the high-level strategic dialogues and the college-to-college mechanism. Sustainable financing priorities discussed at the conference included domestic resource mobilization, measures to address the African debt crisis and support for the future African credit rating agency to reduce borrowing costs. Another subject discussed was the related fields of digital transformation and governance of emerging technologies as critical drivers of health, agriculture, education and climate resilience. Participants expressed the view that, in these fields, the initiative of the Group of 20 pertaining to artificial intelligence for Africa and the African Digital Transformation Strategy of the African Union would help to position the continent as a leading player in the digital economy. In addition, participants emphasized that the United Nations and the African Union supported climate action through, for instance, the Africa nationally determined contributions hub. Lastly, participants reaffirmed their commitment to the women and peace and security agenda, building on the African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls.

5. The fifth African Union-United Nations high-level strategic dialogue on sustainable development, held in New York on 10 November 2025, was co-chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, and the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Selma Haddadi, who highlighted their organizations' strategic cooperation on the promotion of continental resilience and transformative change. The dialogue was focused on advancing the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and its second 10-year implementation plan and on strengthening coordination mechanisms. Emphasis was given to United Nations support for the African Union at all levels and in global advocacy. With an eye on the seven moonshots set out in the plan, both organizations endorsed unified priorities, including digital connectivity, energy access and regional integration. The progress made through the college-to-college initiative and the Agenda 2063 Technical Working Group was recognized, with 48 African Union member States and 6 regional economic

[2] African Union, *Decade of Accelerated Implementation: Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan, 2024–2033* (Addis Ababa, 2024).

communities[3] aligning their development strategies with the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, supported by improved tracking through the Geospatial Interoperability Reference Architecture.

III. Support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including for the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development and the African Peer Review Mechanism

6. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has strengthened its partnership with the African Union, including the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development, deepening collaboration through the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. As part of their partnership, ECA and the African Union have reaffirmed the centrality of the second 10-year implementation plan to their cooperation. ECA is a member of the Agenda 2063 Technical Working Group, alongside the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Peer Review Mechanism, the African Capacity-Building Foundation, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); through the Working Group, significant progress has been made in the harmonization of planning, monitoring and reporting under the "two agendas, one framework" approach.

7. Drafted by the Working Group, the domestic resource mobilization strategy for the period 2025–2033 was launched at the thirty-ninth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, which was held in Addis Ababa on 14 and 15 February 2026. It is aimed at mobilizing resources to fill the estimated $3.3 trillion financing gap[4] of the second 10-year implementation plan, thereby reducing dependence on external funding.

8. Through the Working Group, ECA has also contributed to the development of tools for adapting the second 10-year implementation plan to individual national contexts, including the guidelines for such adaptation, the core indicators profile handbook, the monitoring and evaluation framework and the reporting dashboard. In addition to assisting African Union member States, the tools help the secretariats of regional economic communities to incorporate the second 10-year implementation plan into their development plans. Such efforts have improved monitoring, reporting and planning capacity. Furthermore, ECA jointly led the drafting of the first biennial performance report on the second 10-year implementation plan, which is to be presented at a mid-year coordination meeting in June 2026.

9. In addition, ECA provided support for the continental orientation workshop on adapting the second 10-year implementation plan to individual national contexts, held in Nairobi from 17 to 21 March 2025. The workshop was aimed at aligning national and supranational development frameworks with Agenda 2063, with an emphasis on political commitment, capacity-building, financing and inclusivity. With a view to advancing the harmonization of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, participants reviewed critical implementation

[3] Community of Sahelo-Saharan States, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community, Economic Community of West African States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development and Southern African Development Community.

[4] African Union, *Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan*.

tools, including the theory of change, monitoring and evaluation framework, country profiles and integrated planning and reporting toolkit.

10. A high-level meeting of the Agenda 2063 Technical Working Group was convened as a preliminary event to the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Kampala in April 2025. With a view to accelerating the application of the second 10-year implementation plan, participants in the event – who included representatives of resident coordinator offices, entities of the African Union and development partners – discussed embedding the "two agendas, one framework" approach into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, strengthening the capacity of United Nations country teams, and improving alignment, data systems and integrated reporting within the resident coordinator system.

11. In the renewed memorandum of understanding between ECA and the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development for the period 2024–2028, six mutually reinforcing priority areas are established: data strengthening; climate action; regional integration; industrialization and economic diversification; finalization of the Agenda 2063 development fund; and implementation of the strategic plan of the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development. The memorandum of understanding has been translated into a joint work programme, in which an integrated, results-driven approach linking the Sustainable Development Goals and the second 10-year implementation plan is applied. The work programme, which has the same six priority areas, is aimed at accelerating inclusive, sustainable development and strengthening continental resilience and institutional capacity.

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

12. The Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa, along with its opportunity- and issue-based coalitions and task forces, drives joint implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 by the United Nations. Despite financial constraints and reforms under the UN80 initiative, the Platform remains central to supporting United Nations country teams and promoting inter-agency collaboration across the continent. With ECA, the Development Coordination Office and UNDP serving as its joint secretariat, the Platform employs assets across Africa to address continental, subregional and national priorities, aligning those assets to strengthen on-the-ground capacity and expertise.

13. The annual meeting of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa was held online on 6 May 2025, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General. Participants reviewed the Platform's progress, coordinated support for its priorities, reaffirmed investments in sustainable development and human rights and advanced the reforms under the United Nations 2.0 and UN80 initiatives. They addressed ongoing data and funding challenges, recognized the achievements made in 2024 with regard to the digital empowerment of young people, crisis management and cross-border programmes, and set the agenda for 2025 with regard to impact assessments, trade advocacy, business engagement, youth empowerment and artificial intelligence.

14. At the Platform's third quarterly meeting on 23 October 2025, participants assessed progress made in Africa in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, amid such challenges as poverty and climate shocks. During the discussions, participants highlighted the UN80 initiative's

impact and the need for coordinated communications with African States and donors. In addition, participants committed themselves to pooling resources, sharing expertise and launching joint initiatives on data, technical assistance and engagement with international financial institutions. Plans that were discussed involved mapping reforms of entities of the United Nations system; redeploying staff to preserve knowledge; making use of pan-African conferences, such as the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development; and exploring innovative financing mechanisms, including a possible African credit rating agency.

15. The Platform's performance is benchmarked against its workplan for the period 2025–2026, which is focused on the six transitions to accelerate attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals: food systems; energy access and affordability; digital connectivity; education; jobs and social protection; and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.[5]

A. Opportunity- and issue-based coalition 1: strengthened integrated data and statistical systems for sustainable development and the Africa we want

16. The coalition[6] advanced integrated data and statistical systems for sustainable development, supporting African States through updates to the Africa United Nations Data for Development Platform; the national statistical capacity development programme under the One United Nations initiative; the modernization of practices; and collaboration among United Nations entities and African States.

17. At the continental level, the United Nations Africa Data for Development Platform gained new data from some United Nations entities, although most such entities have not yet contributed Africa-specific data sets. Greater resource mobilization is needed to automate integration and add geospatial elements for better spatial analysis.

18. Launched at the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, the statistical compendium *The State of African Children*[7] is a compilation of continental, supranational and national data on demography, health, nutrition, child protection and education. A digital portal for the compendium is being planned.

19. The seventh Africa Gender Statistics Forum, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 30 June to 4 July 2025, was attended by over 120 representatives of statistical offices, ministries and civil society. Participants shared best practices and built partnerships for harmonized, rights-based data systems on women and children, thus supporting the modernization goals of coalition 1.

20. At the national level, the coalition engaged with the Government of Angola after a request from the United Nations country team, helping the Government to assess statistical gaps and develop a unified United Nations data and statistics strategy, boosting capacity and alignment with continental standards. In South Africa, a data integration toolkit was completed and piloted, with 20 statisticians given training that will enable Statistics South Africa to produce education statistics by linking census, survey and administrative data; demand for similar training is strong in other countries.

[5] United Nations, "Six transitions: investment pathways to deliver the SDGs" (New York, 2023).

[6] Co-conveners: ECA, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

[7] United Nations Children's Fund (New York, 2025).

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

21. The coalition[8] advanced the economic transformation and diversification of Africa, through strengthened implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, targeted capacity development and strategic knowledge tools. Such advances improved national preparedness, institutional capacity and policy coherence, enabling States to harness continental integration for inclusive and sustainable growth.

22. In Liberia, coalition 2, working in partnership with the African Continental Free Trade Area secretariat, organized a three-day national campaign to raise awareness of the Area. More than 150 participants from the Government, the private sector and women's and youth groups received training. The campaign also included introductions to operational tools – such as the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System and the rules of origin laid down in the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area – and encouragement for national institutions to take ownership of those tools. In Togo, the evaluation of the national strategy for implementing the Agreement for the period 2019–2024 informed the design of the strategy for the period 2025–2030, which was aligned with evolving continental and global trade priorities. In Zimbabwe, at two national workshops, representatives of more than 150 small and medium-sized enterprises were trained on the provisions of the Agreement, market access and e-commerce, boosting their competitiveness and their engagement with other entities, public and private.

23. At the continental level, coalition 2 provided major knowledge products to support evidence-based policymaking. By rolling out the toolkit for implementing the Agreement to Cameroon, Mauritania, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania, the coalition provided step-by-step guidance on tariff liberalization, non-tariff barriers and rules of origin. The United Nations Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation was used to strengthen countries' alignment of trade measures with digitalization and environmental goals. The Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Adviser, developed with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and with the World Trade Organization, was upgraded with advanced analytical models, including partial and computable general equilibrium models; the upgrade enhanced the trade negotiation capacity of Africa.

C. Opportunity- and issue-based coalition 3: education, innovation, digitalization and youth

24. The coalition[9] expanded the Pan-African Initiative for Digital Transformation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training and Skills Development in Africa to eight pilot countries. For the Initiative's roll-out, the coalition employed detailed donor mapping, a structured resource mobilization road map, reinforced partnerships and the dissemination of customized outreach materials.

[8] Co-conveners: ECA, International Trade Centre, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and UNDP.

[9] Co-conveners: International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNFPA, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), UN-Women and World Health Organization.

25. Significant gains in schools' Internet connectivity were recorded, including the connection of 600 primary schools in Guinea.[10] The process of mapping school locations, supported by the use of artificial intelligence, was nearly completed in Ghana, while the Government of Senegal initiated its own similar mapping programme. In the Congo, connectivity monitoring was strengthened through the installation of dedicated monitoring software in eight schools. The Government of Sierra Leone applied real-time monitoring data and Measurement Lab testing across 27 schools. In addition, the Government of Nigeria expanded offline digital learning in 150 schools through its Learning Passport platform. Furthermore, the Government of Cabo Verde advanced interactive digital content in core subjects, with the support of the country's UNDP Accelerator Lab. Lastly, in Mali, a pilot scheme was implemented, whereby a solar-powered multimedia tool was provided for children who did not attend school, to give them access to digital learning tools.

D. Opportunity- and issue-based coalition 4: fostering climate action and resilience

26. In Kampala on 6 April, on the margins of the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, the coalition [11] participated in the dialogue on advancing environmental sustainability, the outcomes of the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, carbon markets and energy access. The dialogue was attended by representatives of African States and the African Union Commission, regional directors of United Nations entities and United Nations resident coordinators. Participants emphasized strengthening institutional capacity to gain access to climate finance, in particular the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage and the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, while also calling for transparent governance. On carbon markets, participants highlighted the continent's potential for internationally transferred mitigation outcomes and non-market approaches, stressing the need for credible regulatory systems. With 685 million Africans lacking electricity,[12] discussions were focused on continental power integration, private investment and scaled-up renewable energy solutions.

27. Coalition 4 also elevated African climate leadership, through support for the presidency by South Africa of the Group of 20 Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction. It provided this support by contributing to the financing principles[13] and recovery readiness assessment framework[14] published by the Working Group.

28. In October 2025, through support for the Africa nationally determined contributions hub, coalition 4 was involved in the launch of the first African Nationally Determined Contributions Implementation Index, which can be used to benchmark governance, finance, mitigation, adaptation and transparency. In the declaration on climate change and call for action issued following the Second Africa Climate Summit, held in Addis Ababa in September 2025, African Heads of State and Government jointly called for fair climate finance,

[10] Isaac Kassouwi, "Guinea kicks off plan to bring Internet to 2,200 schools", Ecofin Agency, 7 November 2025.

[11] Co-conveners: ECA, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNDP and United Nations Environment Programme.

[12] United Nations, "Affordable and clean energy". Available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2024/goal-07/ (accessed on 9 January 2026).

[13] Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, "Voluntary high-level principles for investing in disaster risk reduction" (Pretoria, Group of 20, 2025).

[14] Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, "Recovery readiness assessment framework" (Pretoria, Group of 20, 2025).

just transitions and enhanced adaptation. At the Summit, the coalition was one of the organizers of a side event on early warnings for all and presented a synthesis paper linking the Summit's outcomes to the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

E. Opportunity- and issue-based coalition 5: towards peace, security, the respect of human rights and forced displacement

29. The coalition,[15] in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), advanced the Integrated Border Stability Mechanism for West Africa. Through the Mechanism, cross-border cooperation among focus countries[16] is promoted to strengthen border management and mitigate security risks. National consultations were organized, followed by the Mechanism's conference, convened in Dakar in July 2025, with a view to producing joint baseline assessments for each focus country to inform optimized capacity-building programmes implemented by donor agencies.

30. The coalition prioritized combating trafficking in children and its increasingly adverse security effects, in particular the recruitment of children and young people into armed groups. The coalition has been working with the Regional Office for West Africa of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on various projects to protect children affected by human rights violations, including forced begging; this partnership has been strengthening cooperation on supporting affected States.

31. A major initiative was focused on empowering women to prevent and counter violent extremism in the western Sahel and the northern coast of West Africa, in particular Mauritania, Senegal and the two countries' borders with each other and with Mali. Coalition 5 mobilized resources and recruited staff to strengthen women's leadership in preventing such extremism and to foster their collaboration with law enforcement. Under the initiative, women leaders were equipped with tools for countering radical narratives, detecting early signs of radicalization and building trust-based partnerships with law enforcement in the areas around the borders between the three countries.

F. Opportunity- and issue-based coalition 6: subregional initiatives and strategies

32. The coalition[17] advanced a coordinated approach to peace and security and regional cooperation across Africa, through sustained engagement with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and direct support for United Nations resident coordinators. Coalition 6 contributed to the Council's meetings on several priority situations. Separate meetings were focused on the political and security developments in Libya and the Sudan, where volatility continued to impede stabilization efforts. The coalition also engaged in discussions on Gabon, supporting reintegration efforts and political normalization following the country's electoral transition. It updated the Council on the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia, including progress made in security coordination and stabilization planning. In relation to the Sahel, coalition 6 participated in a meeting in which the Council examined

[15] Co-conveners: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNDP and UN-Women.

[16] Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Togo.

[17] Co-conveners: Special envoys and special representatives of the Secretary-General.

transnational crime, increasing terrorist activity and persistent insecurity. At another meeting, developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were addressed and it was highlighted that the Governments of Qatar and the United States of America were supporting peace efforts, through the Doha Framework for a Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the Peace Agreement between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda (Washington Agreement), respectively.

33. On broader regional cooperation, coalition 6 participated in the African Chiefs of Defence Staff Summit, held in Abuja from 25 to 27 August, in which the Deputy Secretary-General also took part. The coalition's participation strengthened commitments to collective security across the Economic Community of West African States. Follow-up discussions in Abuja were centred on responding to emerging terrorist groups and advancing a more resilient continental security architecture.

G. Task force 2: regional knowledge management hub

34. The task force[18] continued to develop and maintain the Africa United Nations Knowledge Management Hub, a cornerstone of pan-African knowledge integration. Launched in September 2023, the Hub has been migrated to an updated version of the content management system on which it is based and given new functionalities driven by artificial intelligence. The upgrades improved interoperability, enabled seamless integration with other United Nations knowledge assets and allowed federated access across the United Nations development system.[19] With over 11,000 users worldwide, the Hub furthers the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, by fostering learning and innovation and by supporting digital connectivity and education transitions, through expanded access to high-quality information.

35. Task force 2 further developed the expertise repository of the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform, a cross-agency tool for mapping and mobilizing United Nations expertise throughout the continent. Enhanced with secure access controls, the repository enables the identification of specialists by thematic area, alignment with specific Sustainable Development Goals and location. The repository strengthens collaboration, reduces duplication and supports coordinated action on such issues as food systems, energy, jobs, social protection and climate adaptation, thereby building institutional capacity for multidimensional challenges.

36. The task force expanded the community of practice platform for peer-to-peer exchanges among United Nations staff and other experts throughout Africa. It now holds information about 144 experts across 13 thematic areas, who have shared 31 knowledge posts on the platform during the reporting period, thus fostering collaborative problem-solving in relation to the six transitions to accelerate attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, including food systems, education and climate resilience.

37. Complementing that expansion, the document collaboration portal is a shared workspace for joint knowledge production. With nearly 400 users, who have generated and exchanged over 170 documents, it fosters cross-functional collaboration, enhances transparency and accelerates the joint creation of tools, guidelines and public goods for the entire continent.

[18] Co-conveners: ECA and International Labour Organization.

[19] Federated access is a system of identity management that gives users access to multiple, interconnected systems or services through the use of a single set of credentials.

H. Task force 3: enhancing transparency and results-based management at the regional level

38. The task force[20] conducted extensive consultations to advance the development of the theory of change of the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform. In the theory of change, priority-driven pathways will be outlined, linking African development challenges to transformative outcomes. It is aimed at guiding alignment between global commitments and the continent's emerging needs, while strengthening resource allocation, coordination and accountability among United Nations entities and African institutions.

39. Throughout the reporting period, task force 3 consulted with important stakeholders from the United Nations system, both within and outside Africa.[21] During the consultations, the task force identified strategic challenges, emerging priorities and opportunities to enhance continental coherence, operational efficiency and the Platform's transformative impact. The insights gathered will form the analytical foundations of the theory of change, completion of which is scheduled for the first quarter of 2026.

I. Task force 5: regional efficiency agenda

40. The task force[22] continued to drive reform and operational efficiency across the United Nations system in Africa, by applying the principle of mutual recognition through three chief initiatives: implementing the business operations strategy, establishing common back offices and setting up common premises. Task force 5 focused on implementing and reviewing services common to all United Nations entities in Africa, while also promoting the business operations strategy, raising awareness of the principle of mutual recognition, guiding the development of common back offices, monitoring the progress made in the establishment of common premises and building staff capacity across Africa. Under the second stage of the strategy, reviews were conducted in 53 United Nations country teams to ensure alignment with efficiency goals and operational best practices.

41. Under the business operations strategy, specialized working groups advanced 12 collaborative initiatives. The working group responsible for information and communications technology rolled out services in such areas as digital accessibility for persons with disabilities, green information and communications technology and sustainable asset disposal, while also conducting a feasibility study on the software used for online meetings to standardize collaboration tools. When the strategy was reviewed, it was determined that it had resulted in $45 million in savings, which represented 83 per cent of the continental target and 44 per cent of the savings achieved worldwide. Especially large savings were made in Chad, Libya, Madagascar, Mozambique and South Sudan. The United Nations entities that made the greatest savings in Africa were UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization.

42. In relation to the second initiative, the common back office of UNDP and the World Food Programme in Zimbabwe was established; it is the continent's third, after the common back offices in Kenya and the United Republic of

[20] Co-conveners: ECA and UNFPA.

[21] The stakeholders included the Platform's Vice Chairs: the Executive Secretary of ECA, Claver Gatete, and the Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa of UNDP, Ahunna Eziakonwa. They also included the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa, Cristina Duarte.

[22] Co-conveners: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the World Food Programme.

Tanzania. Another achievement under the initiative was the development of a self-starter methodology for future common back offices.

43. Progress was also made in enhancing collaboration and efficiency through the setting up of common premises, with over one third of United Nations system offices in Africa now housed in shared facilities, hosting over half of personnel. Major projects during the reporting period included continued work towards the opening of new common premises in Egypt and Senegal; the latter is almost ready to open.

V. Highlights of major activities carried out jointly with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and involving United Nations support for the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development programme

A. Africa Dialogue Series

44. In May 2025, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa held its annual Africa Dialogue Series, a flagship platform for policy exchange and multi-stakeholder engagement on African development priorities. The 2025 Dialogue Series was organized in partnership with ECA; the Department of Global Communications; OHCHR; UNFPA; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; the African Union Commission; the Caribbean Community; the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union; and the Pan-African Parliament. The breadth of the organizing coalition serves to highlight the growing global commitment to addressing historical injustices while advancing African development. The theme, "Justice for Africans and people of African descent through reparations", was aligned with the African Union theme of the year and entailed an examination of reparative justice as both a moral imperative and a catalyst for sustainable development, governance reforms and structural economic transformation.

45. The first sub-theme was "Learning from the past: transatlantic slave trade, colonialism, extractive economies and institutions in Africa", under which participants discussed the institutional and economic legacy of the past, including entrenched inequality, and the strengthened foundational arguments for reparative justice. The second sub-theme, "Understanding the present: economic, social and cultural justice for sustainable development", was led by ECA, alongside the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Department of Global Communications, OHCHR and the Pan-African Parliament; ECA produced a policy brief, in relation to which a public webinar was hosted on 14 May. Under the second sub-theme, participants discussed structural barriers to inclusive development, illicit financial flows and ways in which frameworks for reparations can contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. The third sub-theme, "Building the future: healing and reparations towards socioeconomic justice for Africans and people of African descent", was also led by ECA, alongside the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Department of Global Communications, UNFPA and the Caribbean Community; ECA was one of the authors of a policy brief, in relation to which a public webinar was hosted on 21 May. Under the third sub-theme, participants discussed innovative models for reparations, including development financing, institutional reforms, diaspora engagement and intergenerational healing.

46. One outcome of the Dialogue Series was a strengthened narrative on reparatory justice that extends beyond the historical framing to an emphasis on economic, governance and development priorities. Reparations were positioned

as critical to addressing structural inequality and advancing implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The Dialogue Series concluded with a publicly released call to action, in which commitments were made and policy recommendations set out in relation to enhanced global partnerships, improved data on and research into historical injustices, increased financing for reparative development and stronger policy coherence among African Governments, United Nations and African Union entities, and diaspora institutions; emphasis was given to inclusive youth and gender perspectives.

B. Consultative forums for young people

47. On 15 March 2025, on the margins of the fifty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Africa, ECA and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa jointly organized an event for representatives of African young people. Held under the theme "Making the African Continental Free Trade Area work for African young people: opportunities, challenges and the way forward", the event was supported by pan-African and international organizations. Emphasis was given to the Area as a vital platform for youth-driven economic growth, job creation and sustainable development, aligned with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Young people highlighted challenges, including unemployment, climate change and geopolitical tensions, calling for innovative and inclusive approaches to trade facilitation, entrepreneurship, education and cross-border cooperation. The outcome document was a call to action, which included a call for the unique features of each African subregion to be maintained while integration was fostered, young people's participation in governance was increased, mobility was enhanced, innovation was supported through a youth fund and innovation hubs, and inclusive policies for marginalized young people were promoted. In the call to action, stress was placed on capacity-building, investment in African infrastructure and tailored financial mechanisms. Young people reaffirmed their commitment to leading the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, calling for access to decision-making, resources and opportunities to drive the continent's integrated future.

48. Convened on 8 April 2025, the Children and Youth Forum was an event held on the margins of the eleventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The event, which was held under the theme "Youth, job creation and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa", was jointly organized by ECA, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the United Nations country team for Uganda, the Government of Uganda, UNDP, the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture and Sport and the Pan-African Youth Union. The event featured breakout sessions, at which young people reflected on challenges around employment and innovation. For the first time, the outcome declaration of the Children and Youth Forum was included as an annex to the ministerial statement issued following the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development: the Kampala Declaration on Sustainable, Inclusive, Science-based and Evidence-based Solutions for Driving Job Creation and Economic Growth and for Implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

49. In the Kampala Declaration, including its annex, calls were made for youth-sensitive social protection, affordable childcare, inclusive climate finance, formalization of the informal economy, the alignment of education and employment policies with the realities of young people, expanded technical and vocational education and training, intergenerational mentorship and institutionalized participation in governance on the part of young people. The Declaration was presented at Africa Day, held in New York on 23 July 2025, during the high-level political forum on sustainable development, by ECA and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, among other entities. By presenting

the Declaration, the organizers of Africa Day ensured that the voices of children and young people would be officially recognized in the African development agenda.

VI. Conclusion

50. During the reporting period, United Nations support for the African Union and its organs remained steadfast, advancing the integrated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations reaffirms its unwavering commitment to helping the African Union to implement Agenda 2063. Sustained political commitment, adequate resourcing and deeper collaboration will be central to translating the two organizations' partnership into lasting, inclusive development gains.

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