Directorate of Information & Communication

AU ECHO

2019 Annual Magazine

GIVING A VOICE TO REFUGEES & INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs) IN AFRICA

INTERVIEW WITH

UNHCR Representative to the AU & UNECA Mr. Cosmos Chanda

LAUNCH OF 1 MILLION BY 2021

AfCFTA ONE YEAR LATER

HEALTH FINANCING IN AFRICA

OAU & KAMPALA CONVENTIONS ON REFUGEES & IDPs PULLOUT

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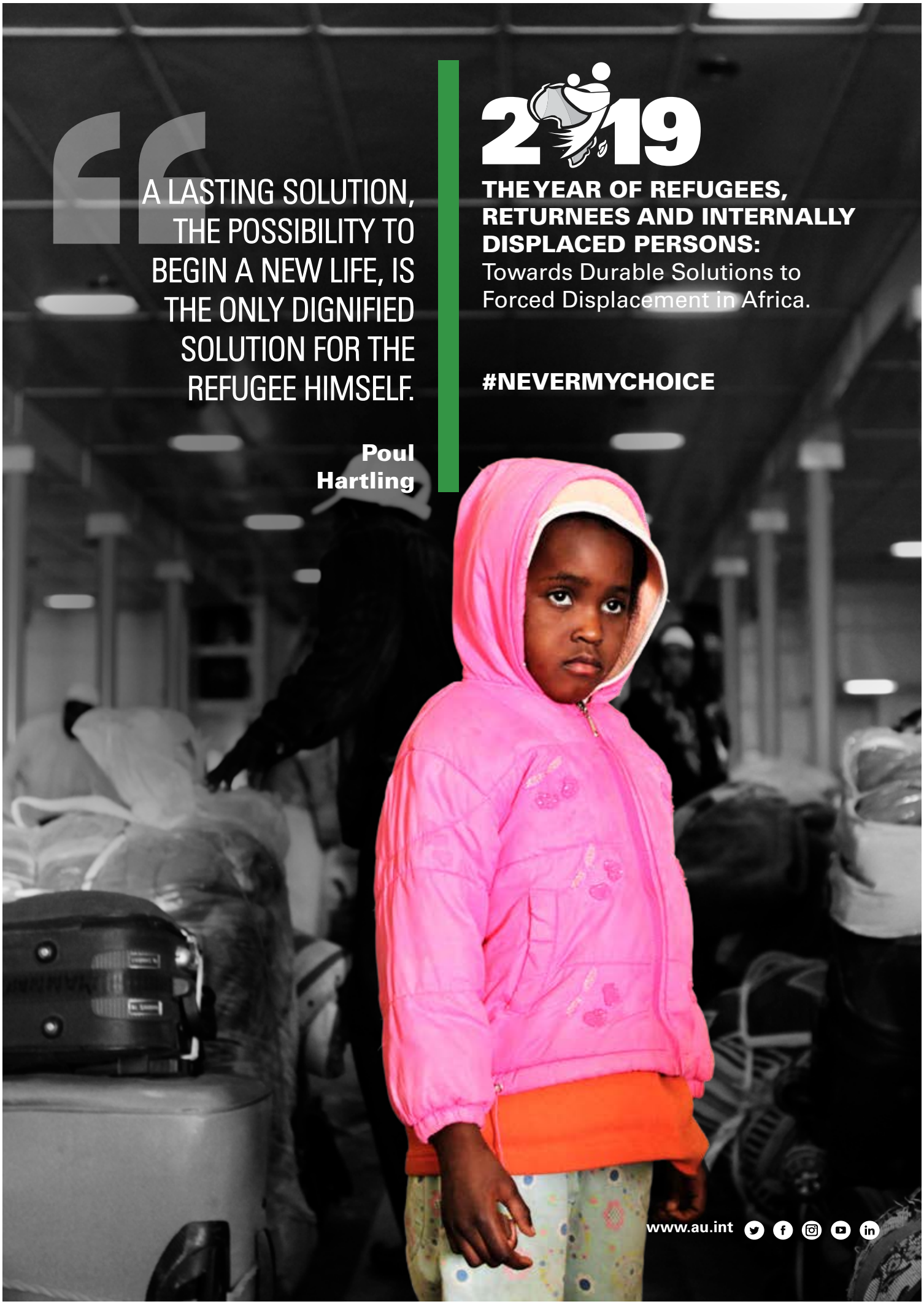
A LASTING SOLUTION, THE POSSIBILITY TO BEGIN A NEW LIFE, IS THE ONLY DIGNIFIED SOLUTION FOR THE REFUGEE HIMSELF.
Poul Hartling
2019
THE YEAR OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:
Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.
#NEVERMYCHOICE
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Note From The Editor

A place to call home!

That is what thousands of people across the continent pray for each day. Victims of forced displacement arising from civil strife, ethnic clashes, environmental factors, various forms of societal discrimination and many other factors that cause them to flee from their homes seeking safety.

This edition of the AU Echo in line with the 2019 Theme "The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons" examines the myriad of issues faced by refugees and how the African Union and its partners are working to not only address the issue of those who have fled their homes, but also identify and resolving the root causes of the displacement. This year's theme also reminds us of the role we have to play as Africans' to ensure that we not only provide a safe haven for those who are displaced but that we offer them the opportunities to live a life of dignity and self sustenance in our communities. Our compassion should never fail us as we look at those who seek refuge recall the words of Warsan Shire ***"No one puts their children in a boat unless the water is safer than the land"***

Africa's youth were at the forefront this year with the launch of the 1 Million by 2021 initiative. The initiative which was launched in April 2019 and which is the 1st of its kind by the African Union, aims to reach 1 million young Africans practically through providing opportunities in Employment, Education, Entrepreneurship and Engagement. We salute the various partners who came on board to support this programme and highlight their pledges in this edition of the magazine.

2019 is also the year when Africa and its development partners took bold steps to implement at a continental level initiatives to promote Universal Health Care. Pledges of up to US$200 Million were made at the Africa Leadership Meeting on Investing in Health in February with commitments to not only promote public sector health financing but to also foster closer public-private sector partnerships to ensure Africans have access to better health services.

In 2019 we celebrate 1 year since the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and even more we herald the ratification by 22 states that will bring this landmark agreement into effect and the promise of transforming Africa into a global trading powerhouse. This flagship project along with other Agenda 2063 initiatives which have seen tremendous progress in the last one year such as the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and the African Passport and Free Movement of Persons (evidenced by removal of Visa barriers to African citizens by several member states) are concrete manifestation of the work the African Union is undertaking to promote Africa's regional and economic integration.

LESLIE RICHER

DIRECTOR
Directorate of Information & Communication

African Union

INSIDE:

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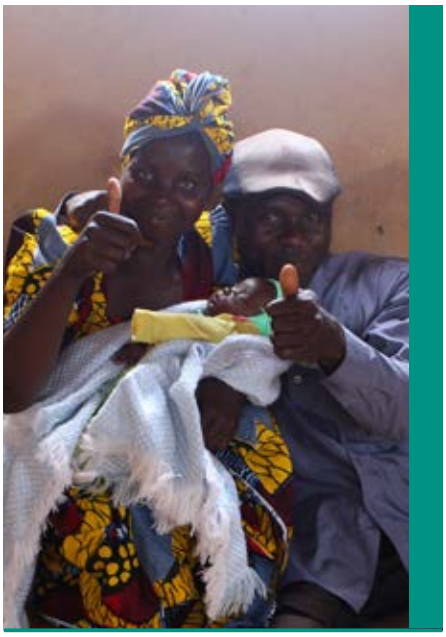

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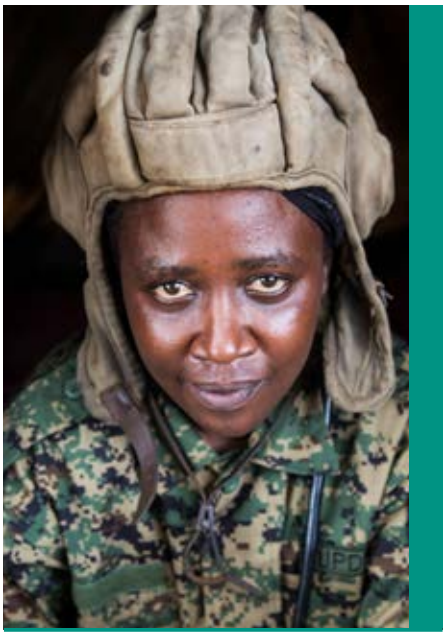

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ONE MILLION BY 2021

FOSTERING NEW APPROACHES TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES **CONFRONTING** THE AFRICAN YOUTH

INVESTING IN YOUTH

Africa has about 420 million young people aged 15 to 35 and this number is expected to increase to 830 million by 2050 and approximately 46% of Africa's labour force will be young people aged 15-34 by 2063. Presently youth face significant challenges in accessing key development resources such as education, skills, employment and experience barriers to engagement that would enable them to contribute to society. Approximatley 50% of secondary-age Africans are out of school and access to quality education which builds relevant skills are limited. In addition there is a rising mismatch between education and the needs of industry and the labour market. Furthermore, an estimated 11 million youth enter the job market annually; however, only 3 million formal jobs are created within that time frame. The lack of waged jobs push the youth into the informal sector where jobs are typically less stable and have lower earning potential. As a result, thousands of young Africans resort to desperate measures including forced migration in search of jobs, livelihood, and a better future.

Marginalisation and the failure to invest in young people exposes Africa to economic underperformance and brain drain, youth criminality, and political and social unrest of youth in the society. The extent to which we are able to commit to youth development through transformational initiatives will be key to harnessing Africa's demographic dividend and achieving Aspiration 6 of Africa's Agenda 2063 which envisions "An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children".

To achieve this vision stakeholders need to identify and implement initiative that will embolden stakeholders to consider new perspectives, test new ideas and scale up promising practices across the continent that will improve the lot of youth in Africa. This will be done through leveraging public-private sector partnerships among key regional and continental players in the development space, leading to the incorporation of a sustainable ecosystem built along collaborative and pan-African lines.

In April 2019, the African Union rolled out a new initiative the **1 Million By 2021** which aims to reach 1 million young people in Africa by creating opportunities for youth to actively and meaningfully drive the full realisation of Africa's Agenda 2063. The initiative which was launched at the AU Headquarters in Ethiopia, during a four-day Pan African Forum organised under the theme 'Africa Unite for Youth: Bridging the gap and reaching African Youth;" brought together over 400 young people from across the continent to co-create solutions identified around the key areas of **Employment, Entrepreneurship, Education and Engagement (4E's)** which will accelerate socioeconomic development on the continent. The 1 Million By 2021 Initiative will address the roots of the problems facing youth and identifies gaps such as the mismatch of qualifications and work force requirements, limited or restricted youth participation in leadership and governance structures, insufficient number of teachers at secondary and vocational level and limited access to investment capital for young entrepreneurs, among a myriad of other issues.

Participants at the 1 Million by 2021 Launch in Addis Ababa

4E's Provide One million African Youth opportunities in Education, Entrepreneurship, Employment and Engagement by 2021

The 4Es and 12 Solution Pathways

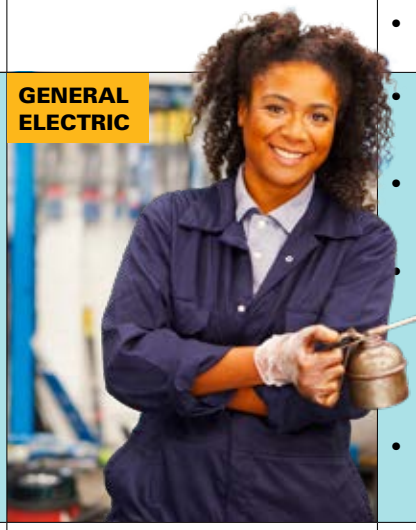
- **Education:** Provide scholarship opportunities to young people especially young women at all levels (secondary, post-secondary, TVET), provide alternative pathways and remote learning resources and tools for skills development and establish a Teachers Without Borders program to address quality of delivery and availability.
- **Employment:** Provide professional internships and apprenticeship programs to ensure young people are able to contextualise learning to the world of work, establish physical and virtual job preparedness and matching services to connect young people to available opportunities, develop a digital skills program to prepare young people for new skills that enable them to be globally competitive and access roles outside their traditional geographical areas.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Mobilise and catalyse capital to allow youth ventures and start-up companies to grow, achieve economies of scale, and move into •••

Miss Aya Chebbi, *AU Youth Envoy* **and Prof Sarah Anyang Agbor,** *Commissioner for HRST* .

Twelve pathways have been identified as drivers for the 4Es to facilitate the expansion of opportunities in youth development

- **12 SOLUTION PATHWAYS**
  - **EDUCATION**
    - Scholarships
    - Alternative Pathways
    - Models for Teacher Development
  - **EMPLOYMENT**
    - Internships and Apprenticeships
    - Job Centres
    - Digital Skills
  - **ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
    - Growth Capital
    - Nurture start-ups
  - **ENGAGEMENT**
    - Leadership Programmes
    - Exchange Programmes
    - Forums
    - Youth Engagement

	ORGANISATION	PLEDGE
1	**OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS**	• 1 Million USD initial support • Pledge to sustain support of the project
2	**TRACE**	• Avail the AUC a Digital and TV learning platform focused on vocational training towards equipping youth for jobs of today and tomorrow, to respond to the pathways of alternative learning and digital skills under the Es of education and employment respectively.
3	**UNICEF**	• Technical support and financial resources for the finalization, implementation and monitoring of initiative strategy; design of financing architecture; strengthen Youth Division coordination and communication; monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, exchange and learning on continental innovations. • 200 members of the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps (AUYVC) • Facilitate implementation through Gen U global partners, knowledge assets and UNICEF country offices • Contextualize Gen U Promising Ideas to 1x21 pathways, and provide expertise, technical assistance and financial support towards development, incubation and realization of promising African ideas
4	**FACEBOOK**	• Train 40,000 small business owners in digital marketing skills across 10 African countries through existing Facebook initiatives; • Provide opportunities for youth to apply to Facebook-supported programmes • Provide physical space for programmatic activity linked to learning and development through NG Hub in Nigeria
5	**GENERAL ELECTRIC**	• Support with design, lessons learnt and partnership scalability options of GE SIYB program in other countries and national youth initiatives • Support / Ideation of program design and sharing of lessons to build broader digital functional skills for youth with non-technical backgrounds. • Assist to deploy/scale the employability assessments using internationally validated testing instruments from similar markets to 300 thousand youths Support with training and access to the 3D printing maker lab in Lagos GE Garages for cohorts on the AU skills program • Open to support and explore coaching from pool of internal GE leaders and access to e-learning soft courses to nurture emerging leaders on AU program
6	**VMWARE**	• Expand Virtualize Africa programme in partnership with the AU to train Africans in virtualization and cloud computer discipline for the creation of employment opportunities
7	**ILO**	• Increase internship opportunities in African ILO offices and HQ in Geneva • Support increased youth engagement in trade unions, business associations and policy fora on decent work in Africa • Provide the Global Youth Employment forum in Nigeria as a platform to support 1x21 • ILO/IFAD and ILO/AFDB projects on rural and informal economy will specifically target youth; • Orient the AUC/ILO/ITU programme on decent jobs for youth in Africa's digital economy, and blue economy in Africa's island states, to promote the 4Es



	ORGANISATION	PLEDGE
8	KOREA	• Support the initiative through the Korea-Africa forum and the Korea-Africa Start-up Fair in Addis Ababa
9	UNFPA	• UNFPA Africa to invest 500 million USD in programmes and initiatives directly aimed at young people
10	AGA KHAN FOUNDATION	• Experience sharing to replicate and scale evidence-based approach to youth engagement especially social media engagement • Replicate and scale existing Aga Khan Innovation Centre in Nairobi to develop new business models for media viability through mentorship of entrepreneurs and nurturing of start-ups in the new media-related business
11	GERMAN GOVERNMENT	• Strengthening of existing cooperation in the 4Es through the Pan African University (PAU) support, AGYI, SIFA and Agricultural TVET for women • Additional funding of 14m euros financial assistance and 1.5 million euros for technical assistance on SIFA
12	JOBS4AFRICA FOUNDATION	• Establish 5 Africa 2063 Youth Innoparks in each African region as a centre of innovation for the acquisition of knowledge, practical and interpersonal skills for employment; entrepreneurial skills to develop businesses; a platform for youth engagement.
13	ECOBANK	• Pledge to support any/all of the pathways
14	AFREXIM BANK	• Provide support in training for trade finance, banking, regional and economic integration. Work with other partners in capacity building including university degrees and modules in university diplomas and certificates. • Provide internships, JPOs and research sabbatical programmes • Provide necessary capital and financing for young African Entrepreneurs as well as SMEs Work with the AUC and partners to support African start-ups and SMEs through Afrexim Incubation programme • Leverage planned continental leadership programme as a platform for an enabling ecosystem for Africa's future leaders
15	AFRILABS	• Train African students, start-ups and developers in 21st century tech skills, equipping students in data science, AI, machine learning, as well as entrepreneurship and business development with a target of 10,000 students trained within 24 months. • Utilize annual Afrilabs gathering up until 2021 to convene and engage key stakeholders supporting youth to promote 1x2021
16	SAVE THE CHILDREN	• Technical support and experience sharing on the 4Es
17	AFDB	• Leverage AfDB Jobs for Youth in Africa

••• underserved markets, provide scale up opportunities including physical and virtual mentorship initiatives for young entrepreneurs; entrepreneurial and business development education delivered within a network of in-person and virtual spaces and Incubation services delivered through established companies.

- **Engagement:** Identify virtual and physical leaders to coach, nurture and continuously support emerging leaders across thematic areas on the continent.

The 1 Million By 2021 initiative adopts a Pan-African outlook and facilitates long term strategic partnerships to open up new opportunities for young people in Africa.

It will promote African solutions and innovations, co-created with and driven by young people, while building frameworks, institutions and structures for effective engagement of stakeholders, sustainable financing, implementation and accountability. The initiative builds upon the progress Africa is making in improving capacities through education and skills development; creating, as well as establishing conducive environments for opportunities in employment and entrepreneurship for young people and ensuring they are meaningfully engaged in the development agenda of the continent. Along with other strategies such as the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and the Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as well as the push to ensure African states ratify the African Youth Charter the African Union aims to ensure Africa's youth are equipped to benefit from and drive the achievement of Agenda 2063.

Find out more about 1 Million by 2021 and other AU programmes targeting the youth by visiting ***www.au.int/en/youth-development*** of Agenda 2063.

H.E. General Gamal Abdul Nasser;
One of the founding Fathers' of the OAU and
President of the Arab Republic of Egypt,
(1956 - 1970)

INVESTING IN YOUTH

Egypt launches **GAMAL ABDEL NASSER LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP** in support of the 1 Million by 2021 Youth Programme

H.E. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, *President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and current AU Chairperson.*

Within the framework of Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 and following the launch of the African Union's flagship youth initiative 1 Million by 2021 which was launched in April 2019, to empower and develop young people in Africa by building the capacities of one million young Africans in the areas of education, employment, entrepreneurship and engagement by 2021, the Arab Republic of Egypt has launched the Gamal Abdel Nasser Leadership Fellowship.

The Gamal Abdel Nasser Leadership Fellowship is the first African fellowship and it is considered to be one of the mechanisms to implement the 1 Million by 2021 initiated by the African Union

The Gamal Abdel Nasser Leadership Fellowship is considered one of the mechanisms to implement the resolutions made at the second African Youth Forum, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 24 to 26 April 2019 which saw stakeholders from public and private sector commit to invest in African youth. The Nasser Fellowship is a concrete manifestation of an AU member state implementing activities to support the 1 Million by 2021 initiative and it targets youth from the governmental sector, private sector, civil society, national youth councils, researchers and media personnel.

The 1st session of the Fellowship organised by the Egyptian Ministry of Youth and Sports and targeting over 120 young professionals from across Africa (with an equal male and female representation gender split) was scheduled for 8th to 22nd June 2019 in Egypt.

At a local level the Fellowship evokes Egypt's commitment to youth development which was reinforced by the declaration of 2019 as the Year of Education by the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and current AU Chairperson, H.E. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi during Egypt's sixth National Youth Conference, held in Cairo University.

The Nasser Fellowship is the first African - African fellowship to target young African executive leaders with diverse operational disciplines within their communities and is named after the late Egyptian leader General Gamal Abdel Nasser who was also one of the founding fathers of the Organisation of African Unity the precursor to the African Union.

The Fellowship has as its main objectives;

- Implementation of the recommendations of the 2nd Pan African Youth Forum on the Education Sector and the #1Millionby2021 initiative
- Knowledge sharing and transfer of the Egyptian experience in national institution-building.
- Creating a new generation of young transformational African leaders.
- Bring together the most influential African leaders at the continental level through the implementation of the necessary training, skills enhancement and application of strategic visions.

THEME OF THE YEAR

H.E MINATE SESSOUMA ON THE THEME OF THE YEAR

THE YEAR OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES & INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

What is the difference between refugees and internally displaced persons?

The 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, defines 'Refugees' to mean every person who, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country, or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.

The 2009 AU Convention on Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons defines Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as person or group of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or place of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violation of human rights or natural or human made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border.

What is the current number of Africans counted as refugees, and IDPs?

As per the Global Trends UNHCR reported in June 2018, there are 6.3 million refugees and asylum seekers and 14.5 million internally displaced persons in Africa. The figures could go up as a result of recent natural disasters which affected the southern parts of Africa; namely Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Comoros, as well as with the current crisis in Libya and the Sahel region.

Where on the continent do we see the highest incidence or occurrence in the number of refugees and IDPs?

- South Sudan with 2,183,928 refugees
- With a total of 2.1 million IDPs, the DRC hosts one of the largest internally displaced populations on the continent. There are 800,300 refugees and asylum seekers from DRC,
- Ethiopia hosts the highest number (960,000) of refugees in Africa.
- Somalis remain one of the most protracted displaced people with 835,000 refugees in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and within the region
- Terrorist groups have continued to affect northern Mali, Burkina Faso and the Lake Chad Basin region, particularly in north eastern Nigeria, which was confronted by the Boko Haram.
- Libya also hosts a number of refugees and has high levels of internal displacement and migrants due to the crisis in the country, making it difficult to regulate migration flows and routes within the country.

What are the main causes of their displacement?

Conflicts due to governance deficit and the environmental degradation effect of climate change and natural disasters are the main causes of displacement.

The 2019 theme talks about durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa. What are those solutions and what is the AU doing to appraise its member states of the solutions and to assist them in implementing them?

Humanitarian crises fundamentally require a political solution anchored on political commitments that enhance peace and security, democracy and governance as well as socio-economic development and structural transformation of the continent.

To address the situation of refugees and IDP's, the African Union:-

- Has identified addressing the structural root causes of protracted violent conflicts, terrorism and violent extremism, natural disasters and calamities, climate change, governance deficit, diversity mismanagement, human rights violations and other factors that have led to a large number of forced displacement;
- Supports Member States' efforts towards sustainable peace and security, democracy and socio-economic development, pursuant to the noble goals of Agenda 2063 towards silencing the guns and ending all wars in Africa by the year 2020;
- Supports efforts towards the creation of conditions conducive for the return, rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees and IDPs as part of durable solutions to forced displacement;
- Supports Member States to implement preventive measures towards durable solutions to forced displacement through early warning, early response, early recovery, disaster risk reduction measures, timely humanitarian action, compliance with human rights and humanitarian law and greater participation of the affected population, including host communities, paying particular attention to women, children, young people, people with disabilities and the elderly;
- Has established the link between displacement and peace and security as a fundamental basis for dealing with durable solutions, and calls on member states and all development partners to ensure that the link between displacement and good governance as well as between displacement and the development dimensions are also fully recognized and addressed. To this end, the AU calls on the Member States and the development partners to engage in 'a whole of the society approach'
- Encourages Member States to take bold and effective political leadership to resolve conflicts in Africa, through

> The main difference between refugees and IDPs is that IDPs are displaced within the country and don't cross an internationally recognised state border whereas refugees are persons displaced across an internationally recognised border.

adopting policies and strategies that strengthen national systems and structures that prevent conflict and displacement on the continent;

At a political level, what interventions are ongoing?

The decision to dedicate 2019 to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government demonstrates political will at the highest level towards addressing this area of great concern.

In addition, the AU will in 2019, commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, and the 10th Anniversary of the 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. This will draw additional political attention to the plight of the refugees and returnees in Africa.

In numbers, dollars and cents, and giving specific examples, what impact has the AU had on these groups of people, both those who left the continent and those within the continent?

The AU provides Solidarity Gestures to support member states that are faced with humanitarian crises arising from governance deficit and natural disasters. For instance, in 2018, a total sum of $1.2 million dollars was given to twelve member states namely, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Zambia, Mozambique, Niger, Sahrawi, Sudan, Madagascar, among many others given in the past years.

In 2019, US$350 000 was provided to Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai and a high level assessment mission led by the Permanent Representative Committee's (PRC) Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs as dispatched to assess the situation first hand and express solidarity with the Governments and peoples of the three affected countries.

Why should Africans who were forced to leave the continent look forward to coming back? What does Africa offer them if they return?

The implementation of the Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, including the flagship projects 'Silencing the Guns", 'African Passport and Free Movement of People", 'the African Continental Free Trade Area', poverty eradication. etc will transform Africa into a stable, peaceful and secure continent and provide a conducive environment for human, infrastructural and economic development.

This would motivate Africans to return to their continent as it would provide them with solutions to the socio economic problems that force them to migrate to other countries outside the continent.

Who are the key partners that the AU collaborates with to ensure successful implementation of the issues on refugees and IDPs?

The key AU partners on implementing projects on refugees and IDPs are UNHCR, OCHA, IOM, IFRC, ICRC, WHO, WFP, UNICEF Save the Children, Norwegian Refugee Council, amongst others.

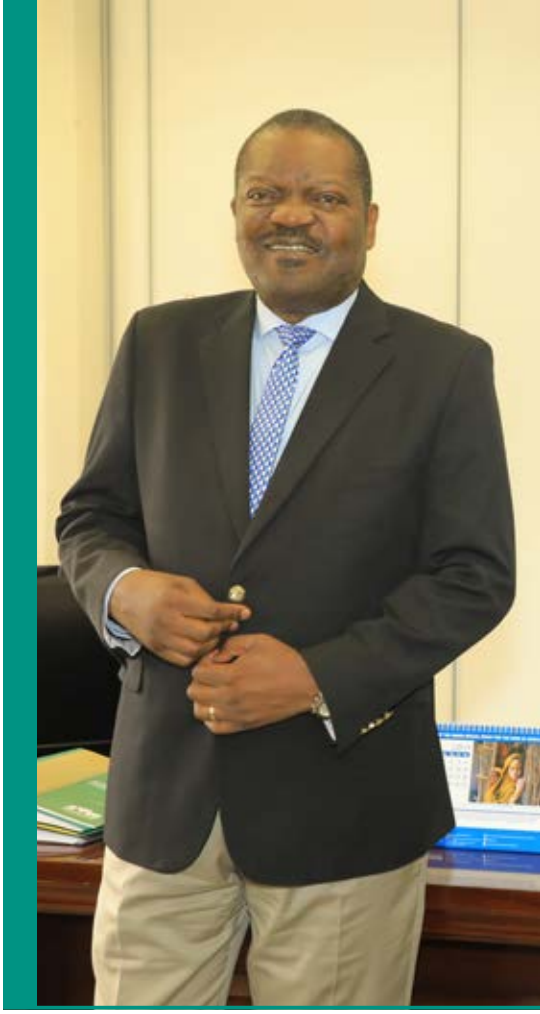
What is the AU doing to ensure ratification of key treaties such as the OAU convention governing The Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa and The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention)?

- Conducting national, regional and continental level workshops to promote ratification and implementation of the Kampala convention.
- Organising IDP focused regional consultative meetings on the promotion, ratification and implementation of the Kampala Convention.
- Holding a Humanitarian Summit to affirm, assure and commit to the ratification, domestication and implementation of both the Kampala and the OAU conventions.
- Popularisation of the two conventions

THEME OF THE YEAR

PERSPECTIVES FROM MR. COSMOS CHANDA

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative to the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa



1. Africa has a strong regional legal framework to address forced displacement, how can implementation be enhanced?

The African Union and its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity, understood that once in a while people could be displaced for one reason or the other. The OAU Convention Governing the issues related to Refugees and the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs (Kampala Convention) are the key the regional frameworks for Africa. In the unlikely event that people are displaced we work with the AU through various programmes to provide support and as the UNHCR we would also like to be associated with those initiatives that can prevent displacement. Because displacement leads to loss of dignity, leads to loss of productivity, loss of self-esteem. If there is anything that we can do as part of the global United Nations to prevent displacement that will be a priority for UNHCR.

2. What is the cost implication of forced displacement in Africa and beyond?

Displacement leads to loss of dignity, Loss of productivity and loss of self-esteem.

If you look at the basic definition of the factors of production, what is very key is the human capital. If there is no human capital, production becomes redundant. Therefore, if people in any economy are displaced, they are not contributing to productivity and output, that is productivity in the formal sense or at subsistence level. Displacement subtracts from the equation of economic growth and, subsequently, from development. We are part of the global economy. If one country is not doing very well in that it is not as productive, it negatively impacts and reduces the ability of the entire world economy to move progress. In addition, productivity has an impact on individuals which is at the subsistence level. Low productivity at subsistence level impacts the national economy, its contribution to the global economy with the overall effect of subtracting from the potential of the world to enjoy sustainable economic growth.

3. What do you see as positive signs?

We have listened to what refugees have told us for the last 60 years. They have made clear the reasons as to us why they run away. We have never shied away from sharing that information with the leadership in countries from which these people come. And if those issues could be attended to, we would be talking about not just reversing displacement, but more Importantly, we would be talking about the possibility of preventing displacement. Contestation for power is frequently mentioned by refugees as a cause for displacement as well as is the marginalisation of a fraction of a population. Unequal and uneven distribution of resources is another reason refugees flee their homes. Generalised insecurity is another factor that forces flight especially of women and children as they take precautionary safety measures. Our appeal to the leadership has been and continues to be, please listen to what those in exile are saying, address these issues and people will return.

4. Do you have any particular message in this special year for the forcibly displaced?

African leaders, generally, have been very generous. They are very tolerant. They have an open-door policy to asylum seekers and refugees. They have given refugees access to natural resources, to make use of institutions such as schools, hospitals, clinics and universities. We encourage them to continue with that. We do realise it is a burden, but one that has to be shared. It is one phenomenon that makes Africa stand out. Because elsewhere in the world we are increasingly seeing things like intolerance, prevention of population movement and expulsions. We salute leaders in Africa for

Africa stands out for its open-door policy to asylum seekers and refugees in a world that is increasingly intolerant to those who are displaced

the attention they have continued to give to refugees. My appeal is that the same attention be also given to the causes of displacement.

And for refugees, I urge them to remain hopeful. They must to be resilient. For UNHCR, we shall always remain their friend and we shall do everything to support them.

2019
THE YEAR OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:
Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.
#NEVERMYCHOICE
UNTIL WE DELIVER THE POLITICAL SOLUTIONS THAT CREATE PEACE, WE MUST IMPLEMENT THE HUMANITARIAN SOLUTIONS THAT CREATE HOPE AND STABILITY ACROSS THE REGION. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL HAUNT US ALL FOR DECADES TO COME.
Ertharin Cousin
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THEME OF THE YEAR

GRADUATION FOR EXTREMELY POOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISPLACEMENT

How this bottom-up and community-focused approach can effectively build refugee self-reliance and resilience

By Shoshana Hecker and Michael Karam (UNHCR)

It is 5am in Santo Domingo, and Patricia is up early to start kneading dough. At 7 am, the doors to her bakery are wide open, and by 11 am her pan con leche is sold out. She smiles as she takes in orders for pasteles. With so many school graduations around the corner, everyone in the neighborhood seems to be ordering a cake. Her family of two helps her out with the day to day.

Her bakery has only been open a few months, but Patricia could have never imagined the future she is now living. Her grin is confident and determined. Her family, like 1,500 other refugees, fled for their lives from Colombia. They found themselves in Quito with nothing to their name and no belongings but the clothes on their backs.

Trickle Up, an anti-poverty nonprofit focusing on the most vulnerable people, worked with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and HIAS, to resettle Patricia's family to Santo Domingo, a small town just 3 hours outside of Ecuador's capital, Quito. In 2015, these three organizations collaborated to adapt a pioneering community-based economic development approach called Graduation to meet the needs of refugees and asylum seekers living in extreme poverty and transform how they experience displacement. Going beyond meeting basic needs through aid, the Graduation Approach supports and encourages refugees like Patricia to become self-reliant and resilient. Once enrolled, Patricia met regularly with a coach who helped her assess local opportunities, create a business plan, and stay on track with her goals. She joined a savings group with other project participants to save money, share advice, and build new relationships. They even gave Patricia's family tips about how to efficiently save money, so she could open up her own bakery.

So how can Patricia's experience in Ecuador help us transform how refugees experience displacement in Africa?

According to UNHCR's 2018 mid-year report, Africa's refugee population is more than 6.5 million, which is at least 1/3 of the current global total, and the entire forcibly displaced population in Africa is 25.12 million people[1]. They face many barriers, including discrimination, deprivation, and chronic uncertainty, making it challenging to locate and identify those who live in extreme poverty. In a refugee context, whether in an urban, rural, camp, or settlement setting, the method of targeting may differ. Even so, accurate targeting is critical to ensuring those who participate in Graduation projects will benefit most from its holistic approach.

In Malawi, for example, Trickle Up collaborated with UNHCR Malawi and local implementing partner CARD (Churches Act in Relief Development) to conduct nearly 20 focus group discussions with people living in displacement and the surrounding host communities. Through the discussions, Trickle Up learned what extreme poverty looks like in this specific context in order to appropriately identify those most in need of all the support offered in Graduation programming. By using a participatory method of establishing the poverty criteria for Graduation, Trickle Up ensures that the voices of the people affected are heard and accounted for throughout the design of the program, and that the process for selecting program participants is transparent.

The comprehensive and participatory design of Graduation is key to building refugees' resilience against shocks, leading to independence from aid with time, especially as the amount of humanitarian funding continues to pale in comparison to the growing global need. In its 2019 Global Appeal, UNHCR asked for almost $8 billion[2] of funding to address the crisis ($2.7 billion of it is UNHCR's budget for the African region[3]). Even more specifically, only 20% of the budget is dedicated to durable solutions. With the limited resources dedicated towards refugees in protracted situations, any program undertaken has to have a refugee's future in mind, as well as be adaptable and

Participants draw what extreme poverty looks like to them in Dzaleka camp

1 https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/statistics/unhcrstats/5c52ea084/mid-year-trends-2018.html
2 http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/ga2019/pdf/Global_Appeal_2019_full_lowres.pdf
3 http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/ga2019/pdf/Chapter_Africa.pdf

Micheline* and her husband Sylvestre* attend a refresher training on savings in Block A in Meheba

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION
Coaching	Comprehensive and tailored coaching (one-on-one or group) helps reinforce all Graduation components and build self-confidence.
Referral Services & Linkages	Participants are linked to appropriate support services that help address specific protection needs and concerns: legal documentation, health clinics, SGBV, etc.
Consumption Support	For participants who lack sufficient resources to cover their basic needs, consumption stipends support participants who would otherwise be unable to participate in program activities without selling assets or losing other income sources.
Savings	Participants access savings mechanisms, either formal or informal, through which they can begin to (re)build savings and assets.
Network Engagement	By encouraging participants to engage with others facing similar challenges, Graduation helps build solidarity amongst participants, especially those who are otherwise isolated.
Core Capacity Building	Participants receive a variety of trainings that differ by context but provide them with the tools and knowledge to overcome formal and informal challenges they may face. These trainings can cover legal rights and responsibilities, financial literacy, household financial planning, language, local customs and norms, and more.
Technical Skills Training	Participants receive technical skills training to ensure that they have the basic knowledge and skills necessary to engage profitably in their desired livelihood opportunity.
Asset Transfer/ Job Support	**Asset Transfer:** Often participants do not have the resources necessary to make an initial investment into a self-employment opportunity. The asset transfer, which is either in-kind or cash, helps participants with the seed capital for their business. **Job Support:** For participants engaging in wage employment opportunities, additional job support, in the form of certifications or linkages to potential employers, helps them overcome the challenge of wage employment.

holistic. Graduation uniquely sits at the nexus of development and humanitarian programming, combining income generating activities with addressing the initial protection concerns refugees might face. This is crucial to building independence from aid and resilience against shocks.

As a bottom-up, people-centered approach, Graduation can significantly contribute to the enormous challenges faced by the current humanitarian system. The approach has been proven to support longer term transitions into resilience for those who have become increasingly vulnerable due to their protracted displacement. Throughout the sequenced and time-bound components, participants work with coaches who help them stay on track by providing encouragement and support. In order to ensure participants are able to fully engage in the program, they may even receive a stipend to cover basic, immediate needs for a limited time. When possible, programs leverage existing systems and stipends such as those provided by World Food Programme or UNHCR. As families develop and build their income-generating activities, they can begin focusing on longer-term planning and growth. No longer solely focused on how to cover children's school fees or where they will get their next meal, participants can save for the future. They start small, often in groups, to build the savings that will help them expand their businesses, respond to shocks or stressors, and cover family expenses.

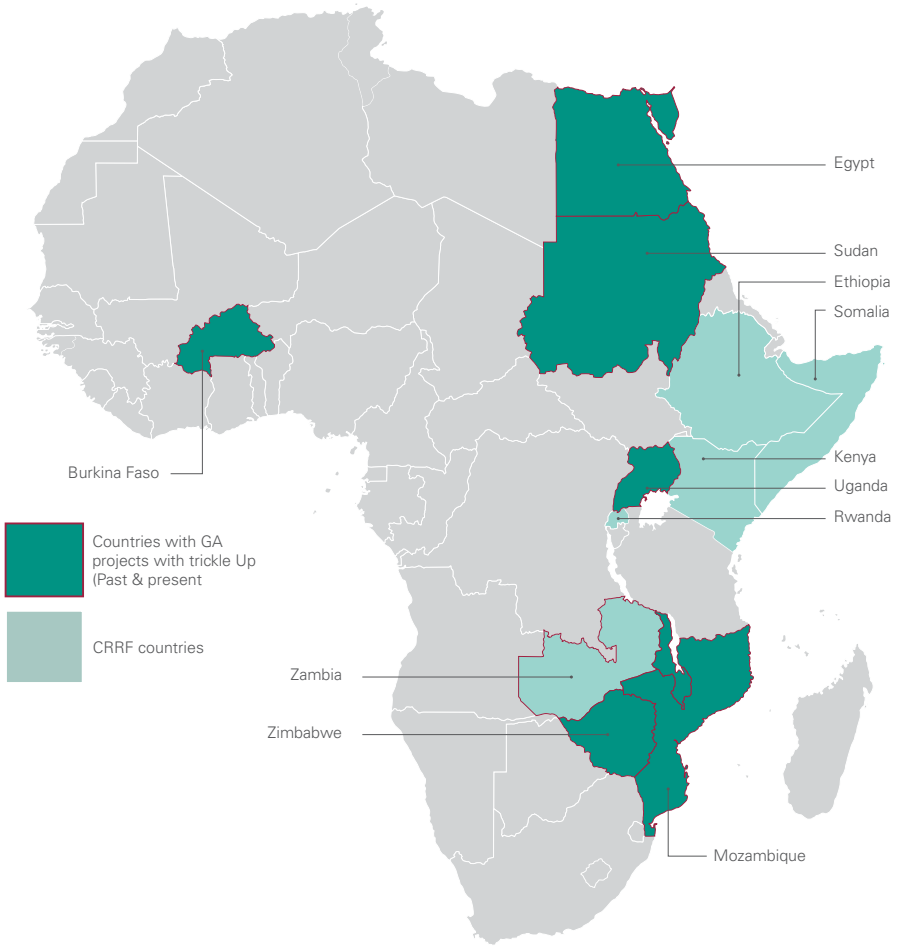
In Zambia, the innovative nature of Graduation as well as its "Trickle" effect is evident across Meheba settlement, even at the pilot stage. Meheba settlement is the second largest refugee settlement in Zambia and home to people from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Burundi, Rwanda, and Angola. Since the start in 2016, the program has involved many stakeholders to ensure buy-in and sustainability, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, and the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, all of which have conducted technical and core capacity trainings. To share knowledge and facilitate learnings across the four blocks A, B, C, and D in Meheba, Self-Help Africa uses radios to broadcast recordings of some of the trainings and testimonies from other refugees from a different block. While a trainer might conduct a training just once in block A, the recording can then be played in the other blocks, and then parts of it can be played later as part of a refresher training. Even though only 63 direct participants are engaged in the full Graduation pilot, an additional 39 families participate in savings groups and benefit from the spill-over effects of Graduation.

While the principles behind Graduation remain constant, every context breathes a different life into its practice, which is why learnings from pilots are as important as the design and knowledge gathering that happens before the project starts. Before adapting Graduation to people affected by displacement, Trickle Up has built significant experience over the years on how best to adapt Graduation to a variety of vulnerable populations, including women, people living with disabilities, and youth. By building smart and effective scale-ups based on small pilots and well-defined research and learning agendas, Trickle Up ensures that every iteration of Graduation is more holistic, refined, and effective than its predecessor. In addition to Ecuador, Trickle Up began adapting •••

* All names changed to protect refugees' confidentiality.

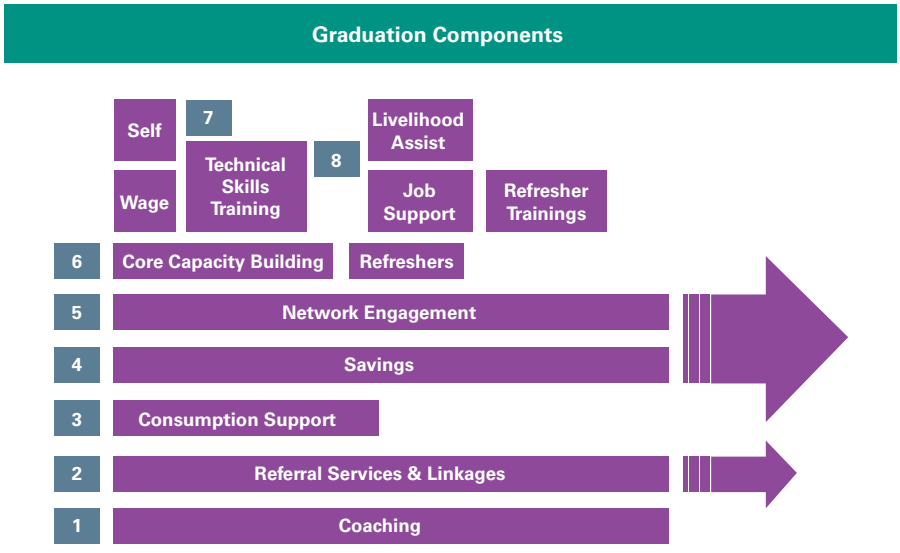
••• Graduation for affected populations, in coordination with UNHCR, in four other pilots in 2013: Burkina Faso, Egypt, Zambia, and Costa Rica. Thanks to a generous multi-million dollar grant from the US Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Trickle Up has built, and in some cases is still building, the capacity of local governments, UNHCR offices, and other NGO partners to deliver Graduation programs in 11 countries on 3 continents: Argentina, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ecuador, Jordan, Malawi, Mozambique, Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Trickle Up continues to learn and share its experience through its current 7-year project in Kamwenge district in Uganda. As one of two key partners in the AVSI-led, "Graduating to Resilience" project, funded by the USAID Office of Food for Peace, Trickle Up brings its experience addressing gender inequality and adapting Graduation to different populations, including refugees and host communities. The "Graduating to Resilience" project aims to build the self-reliance and resilience of 13,200 extremely poor households, half from the refugee community and half from the host community. Using a female-focused household approach, the project will improve the food security and livelihoods of families by changing the behavior of women and increasing their confidence and capabilities. During the first 30 months of this pilot project, a rigorous three-arm evaluation by Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) will increase Trickle Up's learning on the cost-effective ways to adapt and scale Graduation as a solution to extreme poverty for people affected by displacement.



Still, the biggest lesson Trickle Up has learned throughout all these adaptations is the importance of working in partnership with governments and policymakers. Six years after Trickle Up's initial involvement, the sustained success of Graduation for displaced people would not have been possible without the active participation of Ecuador's social protection programs to integrate and deliver the program nationally. In addition to its work with refugees, Trickle Up engages with policymakers through the Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) program in the Sahel. Working with the World Bank and the national governments of Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Mauritania, and Senegal, Trickle Up strives to sustainably reduce extreme poverty by cost-effectively integrating and adapting Graduation into large-scale social protections programs in the region. Government inclusion in Graduation programming for people affected by displacement from the start is key for effective impact and increased scale.

The Graduation Approach uniquely responds to the call of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) by easing the pressures on host countries and enhancing refugee self-reliance. To achieve these interlinked and interdependent objectives across the entire African continent and other locations in need around the globe, Trickle Up is working to partner with governments and organizations to help restore hope and self-reliance for those who are displaced and host communities alike. Our work aligns with the CRRF at a time when the need for dignified and sustainable solutions such as Graduation for people affected by displacement is unfortunately ever-growing.



Trickle Up's Graduation model is adapted for refugee contexts. Graduation components are sequenced and time-bound.

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Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.

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> TODAY, AS YESTERDAY, A NATION IS JUDGED BY ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS REFUGEES.
>
> **Elie Wiesel**

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THEME OF THE YEAR

Security-Development nexus in Sahel and its implications for economic resilience of women forcibly displaced

By Aïssatou Dosso, Gender and Development Consultant at the African Development Bank

The majority of conflicts occur within states' borders, with severe consequences on civilians, particularly women and girls. They are left with minimal protection, basic services and economic opportunities. These challenges are reflected by the increasing number of displacements – internally (internally displaced persons) and across borders (refugees) – of people fleeing conflicts, targeted political violence and raising climate risks. In 2017, the number of affected people reached new heights. According to the UNHCR, 24.2 million people were concerned by forced displacement in Africa, including 6.3 million refugees and 14.5 million internally displaced persons[1].

This data ranks Africa in first place among the continents with the highest number of affected people. Given the scale of the phenomenon, African countries, through the African Union, the African Development Bank, the Regional Economic Communities and in collaboration with other stakeholders (European Union, World Bank, etc.) have decided to address these challenges by establishing integrated strategies to ensure the assistance and empowerment of refugees, returnees and displaced persons.

In this context, the African Union adopted in 2009 the Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, known as the Kampala Convention. While providing a clear normative framework for the protection of displaced persons, the convention also addresses the link between immediate response to urgent needs and long-term planning for sustainable and inclusive development. This nexus approach between security and development proposes new cooperation frameworks with women empowerment and gender equality as a key factor.

This article demonstrates how the security-development nexus is implemented in the Sahel, and the need to accelerate women's economic resilience in this context. Building on initiatives put in place to bridge the gap between security and development interventions, the article proposes a gender-sensitive approach to forced displacement in the region as a means to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

1 https://www.unhcr.org/5943e8a34.pdf

Evidence from the field has shown that women are disproportionally affected by conflict, displacement and rising climate risks; and that failure to address gender inequality reduces aid effectiveness

1. Multidimensional challenges in the Sahel and their impact on forced displacement of women

The Sahel region faces multiple structural challenges, linked to issues of governance, political instability, socio-economic inequalities, as well as insecurity caused by the rise of violent extremism and environmental issues exacerbated by climate change. These challenges have drawn the Sahelian countries into a multifaceted cycle of crises that destabilizes the region and plunges population into an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. Recent data indicates that 10.8 million people are facing food insecurity. These figures illustrate the dependence of the regional economy on agro-pastoral activities, and its vulnerability to climate change. Indeed, the agricultural sector represents the main economic activity of Sahelian countries, employing 70% of the population, a majority of whom are women (20% in Burkina Faso, 92% in Chad, 56% in Mali, 84% in Mauritania and 71% in Niger[2]), pillars of family agriculture and food security.

Women Refugees lining up for food at the refugee camp

Two situations currently co-exist in the Sahel region and have caused different waves of forced displacement. The first is linked to the insecurity in Mali, where people have fled and continue to flee the violence by moving to other parts of the country, but also to Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania. The second is the result of the crisis in the Lake Chad region affecting Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad. In the Sahel, it is estimated that there are 2.3 million internally displaced persons, 919 thousand refugees and 2 million returnees[3], mainly women (just over half) and youth (two thirds)[4]. Despite the efforts of the international community, the availability of gender-disaggregated data on forced migration remains limited, representing a major obstacle to effective and appropriate development and humanitarian assistance measures for half of the population concerned.

Hence, displacement waves in Sahel are predominantly intra-regional and can generate shocks for host countries and communities, particularly on already precarious infrastructure, social services, access to employment and security. This is the case in Chad, which is the 12th country in the world with the highest number of refugees[5] and which is struggling to respond adequately to these protracted displacements where women are increasingly heading the household[6]. Similarly, the crisis in Mali has led to displacements to Niger and Mauritania, with repercussions on national security (increased terrorist attacks), state finances and budget allocation. In this fragile environment, women are disadvantaged since they are on average less educated, less competitive in the labour market, less available due to domestic tasks and more vulnerable to gender-based violence.

Women disproportionately absorb security and climate shocks because of their role and responsibility in their communities. Indeed, despite unequal access to economic resources (property rights, market access, value chain), women reinvest on average 60 to 80% of their income in the family unit, thus providing an important social safety and meeting the basic needs of families (education, health, housing, nutrition). Whether in conflict areas, refugee camps or resettlement, women are at the heart of family's resilience and help reduce their vulnerability to shocks[7]. Yet in 2016 only 2% of total aid for security and peace in fragile states targeted gender equality as a priority[8].

The invisibility of women in forced migration therefore has negative consequences on aid effectiveness. The importance of investing in women's empowerment in fragile contexts has been long underestimated due to the lack of gender-disaggregated data, while it has the potential to break cycles of vulnerability, with direct impacts on education, nutrition, child mortality, food security and demographic transition.

2 https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGR.EMPL.FE.ZS?view=chart
3 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Sahel%20HNRO%202018.pdf
4 http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/publication/the-refugee-situation-in-the-sahel-an-unprecedented-crisis
5 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/120410-12-10-2017-14-52-28-TheSahelRefugeesHumaneFaceofaRegionalCrisisAFCWEconomicUpdate.pdf
6 https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/documents/download/52535
7 http://www.oecd.org/social/gender-development/45704694.pdf
8 http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/events/2018/csw62-event-20180320-empowerment-of-women-across-the-humanitarian-development-nexus-concept-note-en.pdf?vs=4039

Despite the challenges faced by women during forced displacement, these sometimes provide opportunities for women's economic empowerment. The scale of the crisis in the Sahel has created a political momentum that allows for increased mobilization of funds for women's empowerment. In addition, family units are dislocated and gender dynamics within them are changing. However, these opportunities can only lead to real transformation if they are anchored in long-term gender-sensitive planning and budgeting.

2. **Operationalizing the link between security and development in the Sahel:** women's economic empowerment and its implications

Traditionally, security and development have referred to separate sectors with distinct realities, procedures and mandates. Until the mid-1990s, the two concepts were approached in a sequential approach: security prior to development support, due to the risks associated with the destruction of investments. Hence, the security-development nexus is a holistic approach for the coordination of interventions addressing humanitarian needs on one hand and poverty reduction on the other. It advocates that fragile situations require an immediate response to urgent needs, but also long-term planning to "build back better". This means that development interventions should go beyond reconstruction, with physical and soft infrastructure that address root causes of the crisis (climate-adapted agriculture, gender-sensitive infrastructure, access to services and national institutions throughout the country). Recent studies have shown that development interventions in fragile situations can reduce cycles of crisis and vulnerability, by creating an enabling environment where affected populations have the means to improve their lives.

More continental and international policies and programmes (see Kampala Convention (AU), Sahel Alliance, Resolution 2056 (UN), Strategy for the Development and Security of G5 Sahel Countries (G5 Sahel), pillar 3 of the Fragile States Facility (AfDB)) are recognizing the importance of gender equality to strengthen the security-development nexus. Separately, institutions fail to respond to competing priorities (economic resilience or humanitarian needs, rise of other humanitarian crises), sometimes resulting in implementing standardized and ineffective solutions. For example, due to funding constraints, WFP reduced food rations by 50% for refugees and displaced persons in Chad in 2014, despite food insecurity[9]. Women and children were affected by this situation and forced to adopt negative coping strategies. Moreover, in the absence of this nexus, activities in refugee camps and areas for displaced persons remain outside the labour market and national economies. The aim is therefore to enable the economies of the Sahel countries to harness this labour force through income-generating activities while planning women's empowerment programmes (education, sexual and reproductive health, economic resilience, political participation).

Women at Refugee Camp

9 https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/120410-12-10-2017-14-52-28-TheSahelRefugeesHumaneFaceofaRegionalCrisisAFCWEconomicUpdate.pdf
10 https://www.alliance-sahel.org
11 https://www.g5sahel.org/images/Docs/SDS_G5S_VF.pdf
12 http://www.femmeg5sahel.ne
13 https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Generic-Documents/ARF_CONCEPT_NOTE_2019.pdf

Refugee Women flee as violence and War rages on in Libya

The gender dimension is mainstreamed and recognized as crucial to prevent development programmes from replicating traditional patterns and reinforcing inequalities in access to economic resources between men and women.

Several development actors, including the African Development Bank, the European Union, the World Bank and UNDP, are involved in issues related to forced displacement. These actors have launched the Sahel Alliance, which implements "new modes of action and innovative and flexible financing methods" through 600 projects including six intervention sectors with targeted interventions towards displaced and refugee women and youth[10].

Through the Development and Security Strategy, the G5 Sahel countries emphasize on the importance of the gender dimension and enhanced access to opportunities for women because of their "role in stabilization and development"[11]. In parallel with the commitment of Heads of State, the G5 Sahel Women's Platform was established in 2018 to monitor gender mainstreaming in G5 Sahel strategies[12].

3. Case study: AfDB initiatives for women's economic resilience in Sahel

Initiatives based on security-development nexus through resource mobilization, capacity building, policy dialogue and strategic partnerships are being designed and implemented by the African Development Bank. Through its Gender, Women and Civil Society Department and Transition States Facility, the African Development Bank brings to the fore the importance of women's economic resilience for the success of its operations in fragile contexts and particularly in Sahel.

Throughout the Sahel region, the Bank places a particular emphasis on climate-smart agriculture, food security, water and sanitation infrastructure, youth employment, and gender as factors, in order to improve the livelihoods of Africans, mitigate the risks of conflict and violence by addressing the drivers of fragility and paving the way for economic resilience.

The AfDB Gender, Women and Civil Society Department has been proactively working to mobilize resources for gender-focused programmes in Sahel to provide women with skills and income-generating activities. In terms of policy dialogue and advocacy, the department is leading the campaign to ensure that women are given prominent roles alongside men, including at decision-making level, in strategies to adapt to the impact of climate and security shocks. Its recent visits in Chad and Niger provided opportunities to engage on high-level discussions towards strengthening women economic resilience. The AfDB will also use the 3rd Africa Resilience Forum platform under the topic "Fragility, Migration and Resilience" as a platform to identify collaborative strategies to address gender-migration issues on the continent[13].

The AfDB has also joined forces with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), an institution ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of war and armed violence. This partnership aims to produce more sustainable results and enhance development impact by reaching out to more remote communities and bridging the security-development gap as the bank implements projects in the Sahel region and the ICRC has privileged access to the most vulnerable populations in refugee camps and conflict-affected areas. In this context, pilot projects will be implemented in the region where women will be provided with skills and funding to unleash their entrepreneurial potential.

Forcibly displaced women and youth have specific needs related to their experiences throughout the displacement process and in settling in their new environment. The security-development nexus initiatives must be needs-based whilst creating a longer-term approach to supporting women's economic empowerment and changes in gender dynamics. The effects of conflict and climate change are not short-term, and therefore, the interventions aimed to address these issues must be leveraged as an entry-point for transformational change. It includes bridging the funding gap towards gender-focused initiatives, policy dialogue for women's decision-making, and ensuring that women are trained in non-gendered activities.

The integrated approach to security and development is not new, but its implementation through a gender perspective is innovative and promising. Strengthening women's resilience to economic, climate and security shocks is an important factor in reducing risk factors and promoting community adaptation to shocks. As Africa is experiencing a lot of forced displacements, it is crucial to increase strategic partnership between humanitarian and development actors with host communities, governments and displaced people. No one actor can resolve those challenges alone, which makes the security-development nexus stand out as a concrete solution to competing priorities, scarcity of resources and lack of capacity by leveraging on partners' comparative advantages.

THEME OF THE YEAR

My work investigates the possible shortcomings or lacunae in the protection of foreign children (migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees) in Africa, weaknesses often due to the concept of 'sovereignty', by which African countries, as many others, often decide who can enter and stay therein. This study will follow a quite straightforward path, first of all analysing the concept of 'sovereignty', how it is interpreted and applied in Africa. Following, I will proceed to analyse the main legal and policy instruments applicable to the protection of alien children in Africa; analysis that will be concerned with four different levels: global, regional, sub-regional and domestic. I will then examine in more detail, which are the possible shortcomings of protection (also observing if they are similar in the entire continent or if they differ from country to country or from sub-region to sub-region) and how they could possibly be remedied.

These possible solutions will be proposed in the knowledge that the 'best interests' of the child (principle derived from Art. 3 of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child–CRC-and taken up by Art. 4 of the 1990 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child –ACRWC-) should always be safeguarded as a right of paramount importance.

In this regard, a request for Advisory Opinion by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) on the Standing of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child before the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights (Request No. 002/2013, 5 December 2014) the African Human Rights Court emphasised the paramount nature of the best interests of the child which should take priority over technical points that could obstruct accessibility of justice for children (para 95). However, as J. M. Pobjoy has written in 2017: 'Although the role of the best interests principle is well established as a matter of international obligation, there has, at a domestic level, traditionally been a general lack of enthusiasm with the idea that the best interests principle may provide an independent basis for international protection' (at 201).

I will conclude with several recommendations addressed to the main actors and stakeholders concerned that are not providing the adequate protection to children.

Shortcomings in the protection of displaced children in Africa

By Dr Cristiano d'Orsi

Dr Cristiano d'Orsi is a Research Fellow and Lecturer at the South African Research Chair in International Law (SARCIL), Faculty of Law, University of Johannesburg. He holds a Laurea (BA (Hon) equivalent, International Relations, Università degli Studi di Perugia, Perugia); a Master's Degree (Diplomatic Studies, Italian Society for International Organization (SIOI), Rome); a two-year Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies (Master of Advanced Studies equivalent, International Relations (International Law), Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, Geneva); and a Ph.D. in International Relations (International Law) from the same institution. His research interests mainly focus on the legal protection of asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants and IDPs in Africa, on African Human Rights Law, and, more broadly, on the development of Public International Law in Africa. Since 2018, Cristiano is also a visiting lecturer in Refugee and Migration Law at St Thomas University School of Law, Miami Gardens.

A defining aspect of national sovereignty is that states have the right to determine which people are permitted to enter within their national borders. Thus, many African states, like the rest of the world's countries, exercise this power by placing restrictions on who can enter and remain within their borders.

National authorities increasingly argue that there are practical reasons for tightening border controls, often appealing to the safeguard of 'national security' (regarding this expression, see, for instance: Arts. 9, 28, 32 and 33 of the 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees as well as Art. VI (1) of the 1969 OAU Convention on Refugees, Art. 12(2) of the 1981 African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Banjul Charter), Arts. 8 (1), 13(3)(b), 22(3), 22(4), 26(2), 39(2) and 40(2) of the 1990 Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers). The United Nations (UN) has described 'national security' as the 'ability of a State to cater for the protection and defence of its citizenry.' (UN Chronicle)

Although one of the objectives of the African Union (AU) is 'to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States' (Art. 3 (b) of its 2000 Constitutive Act) there is no general consensus on a given definition of 'national security'. I will therefore devote part of my study to a legal analysis of this concept.

In addition, in Africa there is also a lack of consensus on what "children's rights" mean in the different African cultures. This sometimes constitutes a problem when it comes to defending the rights of alien children. The different perception that Africa has of a child (a child is defined as a person below the age of 18 years, Art. 2 ACWRC) is also highlighted by the fact that the child is also considered as an individual who has 'responsibilities towards his family and society, the State and other legally recognized communities and the international community' (Art. 31 of the ACWRC. There is no similar provision in the CRC).

However, it has been emphasized that children's rights are 'not contingent upon them fulfilling their "duties"', since duties co-exist inter-dependently with rights (Michelo Hunsungule and Others (on behalf of Children in Northern Uganda) v. Uganda ACERWC Communication No. 1/2005 (2013) para 59).

Yet the ACRWC seeks to reinforce the well-being of the child because it explicitly asserts the supremacy of the rights guaranteed therein over any custom, tradition, cultural or religious practice inconsistent with them (Art. 1(3)). However, these practices are only 'discouraged' but not explicitly declared illegal. This supremacy is elaborated further under Art. 21(1). According to the ACERWC the obligation under Art. 1(1) to adopt legislative and other measures to give effect to the Charter on the Rights of the Child 'is subject neither to progressive realization, nor to available resources' (ACERWC Communication No. 1/2005 (2013) para 37). It proceeded to state that 'effective implementation of laws with due diligence is part of States parties obligation under the Charter' (ibid, para 38).

The 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICPRMW) also contains specific provisions which protect •••

••• children, including in relation to access to birth registration (Art. 29) and to education (Art. 30).

All migrant workers and members of their families are also protected from unlawful confiscation and destruction of their identity documents (Art. 21), from collective expulsion (Art. 22), and have the right to consular protection and assistance (Art. 23).

Certain general principles underline the obligation of African States to protect the rights of all children, and are of relevance to the situation of children in the context of migration. Apart from the above mentioned 'best interests', the other main aspects of these principles are: the principle of 'non-discrimination' (as set out in Art. 3 of the ACRWC) and the right to life, survival and development of the child.

In The Centre for Human Rights (University of Pretoria) v. Senegal (Communication No. 001/2012 (2014) paras 40-45), the ACERWC stressed the significance of these principles in reinforcing the other rights guaranteed under the Charter.

Ensuring the non-discriminatory access of migrant children to economic, social and cultural rights and promoting the concept of leisure and play which encourage the fullest possible development of the child's personality will allow for such development (Art. 12 of the ARCWC).

Equally important will be protecting children in the context of migration from exploitation, detention and separation from their families in contradiction of their best interests (Arts. 15(1), 17, 19, 25, 27 of the ACRWC). The development of irregular child migrants in countries of transit and destination can be severely affected by constraints on their rights or the rights of their parents.

In addition, International Law provides an absolute prohibition of refoulement, i.e., the return of anyone to a country where they would be at risk of torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, or the return of a refugee to any country in any manner whatsoever where his/her life or freedom would be threatened (for instance, see: Art. 33 of the 1951 Refugee Convention, Art. II (3) of the 1969 OAU Convention on Refugees, Art. 3 of the 1984 CAT).

This would include access to asylum procedures and procedures to establish whether they have been subject to trafficking and other serious human rights violations (Art. 29 of the ACWRC: 'Sale, Trafficking and Abduction').

International law also provides that the detention of children, including children in the context of migration, should generally be avoided (CRC, Art. 37. Unfortunately, there is no homologous provision in the ACRWC).

Although detention is often used by African countries as a means to discourage irregular migration and it is, often, prodromal to the deportation of aliens, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants has affirmed that detention is never in the best interests of children (A/HRC/11/7, 2009, para 62).

Additionally, children should not be detained based on their migratory status or irregular entry to the country (Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment No. 6, 2005, para 61).

Where absolutely necessary, children should only ever be detained as a measure of last resort, this detention must always be justified in law, and it must be for the shortest possible period of time (CRC, Art. 37 (b)).

In this sense, to challenge the power of the South African authorities, in the case Centre for Child Law and Another v Minister of Home Affairs and Others 2005 (6) SA 50 (T) (Transvaal Provincial Division) Judge J. De Vos (Transvaal Division) clearly affirmed that:'I am of the view that the detention of these children at Lindela [repatriation centre] is unlawful and invalid and should cease immediately. Furthermore, the way in which these children are being deported is not only unlawful, it is shameful' (para 23).

In this regard, Art. 19 of the ACRWC obliges States to ensure that children are not separated from their parents against their will (See also: Art. 9 of the CRC).

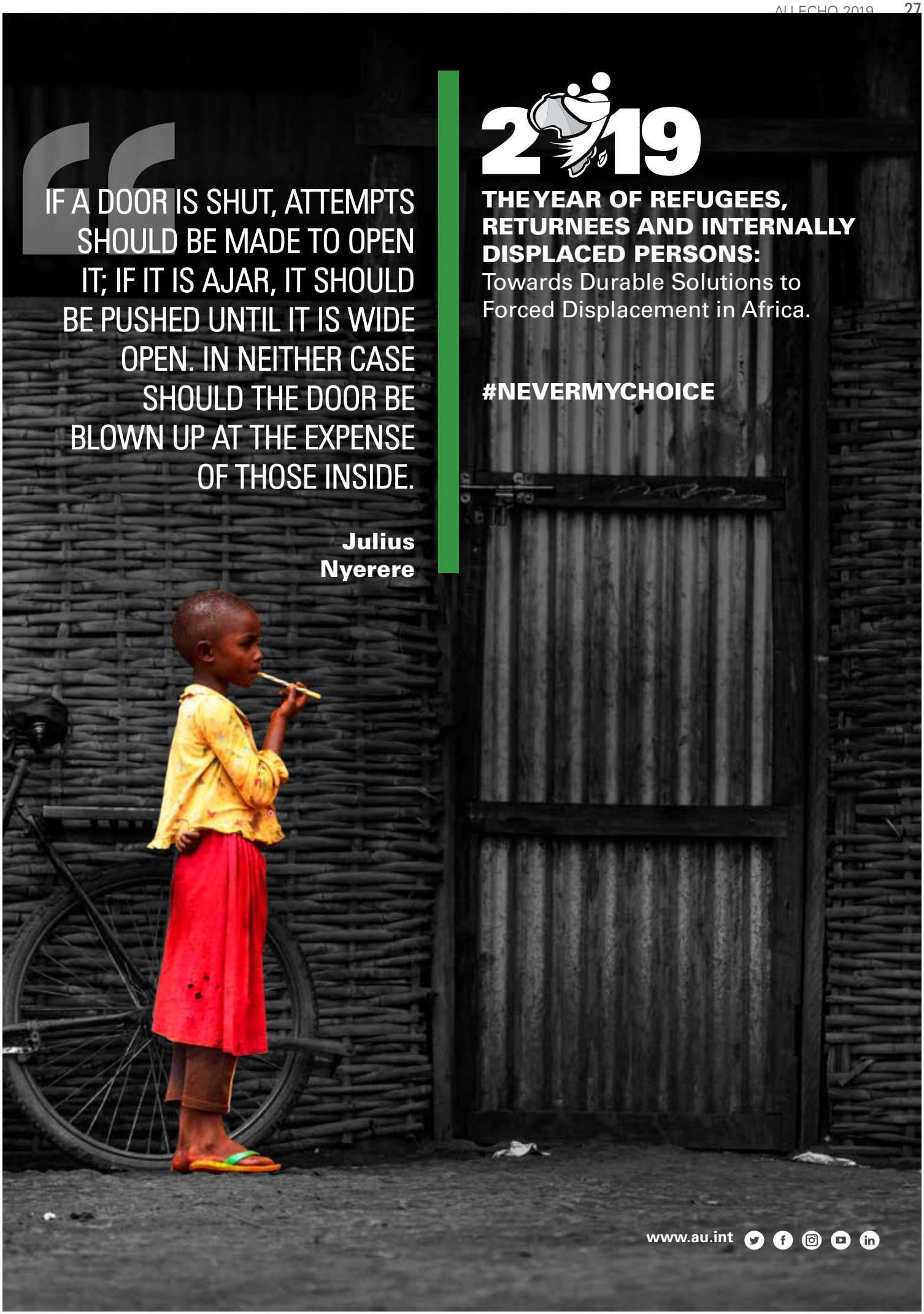
The principle of family unity has an important protective function for children in the context of migration, particularly in the situation of unaccompanied and separated children. Family reunification also constitutes a key element of integration policies (The family has been recognized as the natural and fundamental group unit of society in Art. 23 of the ICCPR, Art. 18(1) of the ACRWC, and Art. 18(1) of the Banjul Charter).

However, the examples of separation of foreign children from parents is still not the exception in many African contexts, like in South Africa where the trend, by national authorities, of focusing on only social welfare as being predominant in dealing with foreign minor children in the country entails that undocumented children are often denied access to social services such as health care, education and other public services and they are rendered vulnerable to arrest and deportation.

If the ACRWC remains an instrument of great potential to protect a category of very vulnerable individuals African States should undertake several initiatives in order, for instance, to prioritise the best interests of the child and provide a continuum of care and support for all unaccompanied and separated migrant children, including trafficked children, to ensure they have access to key services including education, family tracing and well-functioning, professional guardianship systems.

In addition, they should also make an additional effort to encourage the integration of the children of long-term migrants by providing them with education, training and economic opportunities equal to those of nationals, and facilitating their naturalisation and promoting family reunification policies as recommended in Art. 10 of the CRC and Art. 23 of the ACWRC (in this latest case only for refugees).

Finally, it should also be taken for granted that the rights of foreign children should be effectively protected under national laws by implementing the relevant international instruments adopted, possibly putting in place domestic mechanisms for the enforcement of those instruments.


IF A DOOR IS SHUT, ATTEMPTS SHOULD BE MADE TO OPEN IT; IF IT IS AJAR, IT SHOULD BE PUSHED UNTIL IT IS WIDE OPEN. IN NEITHER CASE SHOULD THE DOOR BE BLOWN UP AT THE EXPENSE OF THOSE INSIDE.
Julius Nyerere
2019
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THEME OF THE YEAR

WELLBEING OF VULNERABLE AFRICAN MIGRANTS

Policy for Regional Social Provisioning

By Spel Oghogho Christal

The contemporary pan-Africanist drive for trade, cooperation and integration suggests that intra-regional migration in Africa will continue to grow in the near and far future. In July 2016, the African Union launched the African Union passport, which is expected to grant visa free travel to Africans within the continent. Also, the USD1.2 trillion Tripartite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA) that was initiated in 2008 and signed in June 2015 will open the borders of 26 African countries for trade purposes. The vision of open borders raises institutional concerns about the socio-economic condition of African migrants at the informal level. In addition, Africa's demographic boom and the increasing level of vulnerability of African migrants in Africa, suggests increased mobility within the continent and a rise in migrants' insecurity. While open borders may ease the effect of political criminalization of informal migration, it may not arbitrarily affect the socio-economic conditions that will ameliorate the vulnerability of the migrants. In that vein, an innovative development of Social Policy in the region becomes necessary alongside the political and economic visions.

Migrants vulnerability and regional social policy

If we acknowledge that there is continuous high level of international migration within Africa, and as has been reported, we recognize the precarity, abuse, violence and dehumanization directed at African migrants in African countries, it becomes relevant to ponder at the relevance of 'open borders' to the ordinary African immigrants. Whitehouse (2012, p. 163) in his study of African migrants in Congo, calls these migrants "Aventuriers" and described them as "young, male, and often single…in their twenties, with little education". Abebe Shimless (2010) from the analysis of household survey data from Burkina Faso, Senegal, Nigeria and Ghana, also reported that African migrants tend to be young, predominantly male and generally have some education above primary level. He noted that the sex, age and education levels of the migrants vary depending on the destination country. For example, African migrants to the OECD are categorized as older men, well-educated and predominantly (over 70%), in comparison to migrants that move to other African countries. However, the mobility of females and underage children across national boundaries should not be ignored. For instance, the IOM 2014 report on migration in Southern Africa, reveals that in 2013, 44% female and 20% underage (under 19 years) children made up the 4million regular migrants recorded in the region.

For these 'aventuriers' migrants, through irregular means, the borders are in reality open, in as much as they can move across the borders, albeit under conditions of extortions, abuse and detentions. More so, the reported experiences of extortions, abuse and detentions, are not limited to international migrations that officially require applications for entry visa or permits. Hence, even in situations (for instance moving across borders within the ECOWAS region that has sub-regional agreements for freedom of movement) where the migrants are not in contravention of any migration regulations, they still reported cases of extortion and other abuses, for example, through profiling (Vigneswaran, 2010). The

The visualization and hence politicization of the future of an Africa with open borders, must incorporate a transformative social policy perspective as a foremost and integral part of that vision as a matter of urgent necessity.

Children at a Refugee Camp

point is that, the vulnerability of African migrants at the hands of the state and its agents, cannot be seen to be only related to the 'irregularity' of migratory choice.

Furthermore, there is the question of the use of national resources to care for large numbers of migrants that may be unable to afford the cost of accessing care from the private sector. Whitehouse (2012, p.181) narrated the story of Abodoulaye Barry, a Guinean migrant who died in Congo:

…two days earlier armed robbers had shot a trader from Guinea, Abdoulaye Barry, in the thigh after forcing their way into his Moungali home. According to a friend who accompanied him to the hospital, medical staff watched Barry bleed to death while waiting for his West African companions to provide surgical gloves, gauzes, bandages, and other items, which, they said, the hospital had run out of.

Such stories of the avoidable deaths of African migrants in hospitals also abound in South Africa. While such stories have been used to call attention to the attitude (xenophobic) of citizens towards African migrants, they also raise the question of the cost of caring for the ordinary African migrant. A question of accessing national resources as a migrant resident in an African country, is as much a political question, with economic consequences, as a social question with legal (rights) connotations. That is, in the case mentioned above, it is logical to ponder if Barry would have received the necessary treatment as a Congolese? Or was it a case of a poorly resourced national hospital, with inadequate stock of medical materials needed for emergencies such as his? While arguments from a human rights perspective may consider Barry's citizenship as irrelevant to giving him access to life saving resources, a more pragmatic examination, taking into consideration the general socio-economic conditions of life and the macro-economic climate, will want to go further to enquire who pays for, or shoulders, the financial responsibility of care for the ordinary African migrant. The pursuit of open borders on the track of pan-Africanism and capitalistic economic theorization, cannot, alone, fully examine or cater for the actual presence of ordinary African migrants in the host society.

In addition, beyond the politicization of migrants' vulnerabilities, there is the social aspect that calls attention to the actions of ordinary citizens and their interactions with the migrants. The conditions of insecurity to life and properties for the African migrant within Africa cannot be left only at the policy level, but attention to micro level aggressions and abuse, can be brought to the top. The failure or weakness of implementation or enforcement of available policies and regulations that protect migrants' rights in countries with aggravated cases of reported migrant abuse, logically cannot be improved by even more policies and regulations. At the micro level, the power of appropriate policies and regulations to make a difference, quickly becomes hollow within a hegemonic social context of stranger-hood, or 'stranger's code' (Whitehouse, 2012, p. 137). That highlights the availability or not, of structures of social integration and rights education within host societies, but also quite importantly, the many anxieties of citizens.

Therefore, to meaningfully engage the vulnerability of African migrants, the African Union as a political association, should become active in the development and dispensation of social welfare packages. That is, a more active role that goes beyond the development of an African social policy, to the development of a regional institutional structure that administers social policy responsibilities for the care of vulnerable African migrants in the host country.

It becomes important to point out that attention to issues of social policy or care will need to transcend the framework of the nation-state, that is if it is to deliver substantive care to the migrants wherever and whenever care is needed (Spel, 2017).

The fluid socio-economic and political profile of the vulnerable, the complex experiences of vulnerability, poverty and risks, and the diverse political and non-political actors commanding and transforming the socio-political space, emphasizes that practical responsibility of care should go beyond the nation state.

I imagine a regional social policy as a regional public good of essential services for the welfare of vulnerable African migrants. As a social policy, it will work to secure, support and promote a positive future for Africans that are vulnerable in host African countries. In my conceptualization, I take social policy to assume broader responsibilities than reduction of destitution through re-distribution, and specific duties that target the type of vulnerabilities experienced by the migrants (Adesina, 2009, 2010). Adesina (2010) reminds us that a social policy that works "has always depended on visionary agenda setting…" The African Union pan-Africanist vision (Adogamhe, 2008; Okhonmina, 2009; Williams, 2005) of solidarity, economic empowerment and development, political dignity, justice and fairness, and social cohesion, provides a philosophical background to a regional vision of social policy. The gravity of the vulnerability and risks experienced by vulnerable migrants such as informal African migrants and the state-centric gap that exclude them, make an ideal case for the exploration of a regional social policy as a regional public good.

THEME OF THE YEAR

AFRICA WORKING TOGETHER … AS **ONE**

By Josepha M. Musabyemariya Nelson

There is a simple, transparent, unambiguous saying that somehow resonates with all who hear it, "You cannot give what you do not have."

Whether it is a very private, conversation with your own child or a public speech before a room full of incompassionate strangers, the phrase has important meaning; and when taken and applied it to the African Union's 2019 theme – "Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa" – what was once important, becomes transformational.

If durable or lasting solutions are to take place, it is a fact that refugees, returnees and internally displaced people need protection, along with food, clothing, shelter, health care and education. It is also a fact that these vital needs cannot be satisfied unless some form of financial commitment is in place. Foreign governments, global corporations, wealthy celebrities, religious groups and well-known international organizations have traditionally been those that have come to the rescue of Africans in particularly dire need. The question is: "Is this familiar scenario sustainable?"

Despite the many decades of well-meaning, and often strategically minded, donors reaching out to help the continent's displaced persons, the resultant outcome has often been a temporary fix to a long-term problem. The support has even marred Africa to the point where it is seen by many as stereotypically the place that is forever broken and forever in need.

Africans helping Africans

So, what can be done, especially when it comes to finding lasting solutions to these vexing situations? The AU's 2018 Chair, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, has an answer - Africans need to help Africans. He believes African countries can work with their neighbours and concentrate on improving economic conditions for themselves and each of AU's member states. When the local, regional, national, and Africa's continental economies are built up, everyone benefits.

"We have been able to show that entrepreneurship, business and intra-Africa trade that have been lacking are actually more important than focusing solely on the market outside of the continent… That conversation helps people understand more, it helps people come together and we keep reminding them your neighbor is more important than someone far away from you," said President Kagame speaking to leading business magazine, Forbes Africa (Dec. 26, 2018). He further states in the article that "…as we look at ourselves as individual countries, we need to recognise that if it's sub-regional blocs or the continent, we become bigger, we are actually better off for it if we work together. Businesses and economies grow multiple times when we work together."

Clearly, when we work together, we can better help those in our individual countries and those in neighboring countries as well. This is an important consideration for displaced persons and a much needed one because, by all indications, Africa needs help. And it is not alone.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees, (UNHCR) Global Trends Report focuses on analysing the changes in target populations as well as increasing awareness and understanding of ongoing crises around the world. The report counts and tracks the numbers of refugees, internally displaced people, people who have returned to their countries or areas of origin, asylum-seekers, stateless people and other populations of concern to UNHCR.

31 people displaced every minute 44,000 people displaced daily

Some key findings from the 2017 UNHCR Global Trends Report state:

- In 2017, the number of people forcibly displaced from their homes worldwide came at a record rate of 44,400 every day. (16.2 million people were forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict or generalised violence equateing to 44,400 people every day and is the highest number recorded by UNHCR. It brings the total worldwide population of forcibly displaced people to a new high of 68.5 million in 2017)
- The numbers arise from crises in Africa and Southeast Asia, as well as the ongoing conflict in Syria. This population swelled by a net 2.9 million in 2017.
- It means the world's forcibly displaced population has now overtaken that of the United Kingdom and reached another record high. It also means that 31 people are newly displaced every minute of every day.

No doubt this is shocking, but when it hits home, when it hits Africa, it hurts even more. In her speech during the opening session of the 34th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union in Addis Ababa, in February 2019, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Ms. Vera Songwe said there are 14.7 million internally displaced people and 7.3 million refugees in Africa and if the

Ilhan Omar
Somali Refugee and 1st
Somalian elected to
US Congress
A REFUGEE IS SOMEONE WHO SURVIVED AND WHO CAN CREATE THE FUTURE.
Amela Kolude
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numbers were put into perspective, 23 million refugees represent twice the population of Tunisia, and close to the population of Ivory Coast. The GDP of Tunisia today is about $40 billion dollars twice that is 80 billion dollars, the GDP of Ivory Coast is $40 billion. "The moral question is, how do we as a Union create the Africa we want if without shame or humiliation we let our youth, our young women lament in camps?."

Women and girls at the intersection

If war and conflict are the familiar, but unwelcomed parents of forced displacement, then women and girls are the abused offspring for they are the hardest hit. Inequality, discrimination and cultural norms have placed woman and girls at the intersection of all global catastrophes and conflicts. In Africa, it is, unfortunately, shamefully conspicuous. The struggle for equal opportunity and gender equality is a longstanding one which the AU recognises and that is why it has made significant governance and policy decisions as well as instituted activities aimed at leveling the playing field in Africa. They include:

- OAU Kampala Declaration on Women Empowerment (1994).
- Establisment of the OAU and ECA African Women's Committee of Peace and Development (1998).
- The 2010 Study into the situation of women and children in armed conflict instituted by the AU Panel of the Wise .
- First African Women Mediation Workshop on Silencing the Guns convened in 2016 by PANWISE, UN and ACCORD
- Formation of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation or FemWise endorsed by the AU Peace & Secutity Council and UN PSC Arrial Forum in 2017.

African Union fully engaged

One of the tools used to fight statelessness, refugees' crisis and the internal displacement of persons is the Continental Structural Conflict Prevention Framework (CSCPF) which is a guiding tool for the AU Commission (AUC) in supporting Member States in their operational conflict prevention. The process centers on strengthening the capacity of the AU to deal with mainstream conflict prevention through

the programs and activities of the AUC. The CSCPF provides the tools needed to "identify and assess a country's structural vulnerability to skirmishes earlier and work out necessary programmes which tackle the identified structural loopholes." In 2012, the AU put in place the Continental Structural Conflict Prevention Framework Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessments (CSVRAS), and Country Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategies (CSVMS). In addition, the Peace and Security Council is charged with ending conflicts, and bringing sustainable peace, through major partners like European Union, RECs and Member States. All of these mechanisms ultimately vie to work together, like players on a team seeking to win an important game.

'A United Africa'

As he was completing his year as AU Chair, President Kagame responded to a question that centered on one of the most important, spoken and unspoken, resultant aspirations of Agenda 2063 – a united Africa.

"So, we had to create long-term, medium-term pathways and say we should develop human capital and infrastructure. This huge workforce that keeps coming… 29 million supposed to be [pouring] into the labor market every year [until] 2030; you've got to think about this and ask what it means. It's a huge asset if we make correct investments. It's also a huge risk if you just keep [pouring] 29 million people in the labor market when they have nothing to do. The framework of 2063 provides sufficient room for us to think, reflect and therefore make the right investments for us to fulfill continental aspirations" he said.

If war and conflict are the familiar, but unwelcomed parents of forced displacement, then women and girls are the abused offspring for they are the hardest hit.

"We need that backdrop from which we should see things and remind ourselves how this continent is actually great, a continent projected to be 2.5 billion by 2050. That's huge, bigger than any other continent," he said. "Africa is endowed with all kinds of resources, and natural resources, so how do you not think it's important? Therefore, we have to create a clear context in which we operate and understand all aspects of this value of being in a position where we have huge assets in terms of people and natural resources and everything that anyone would wish for."

And truly what we must most wish for, and work for, is a home for all of Africa's and the world's refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons. At the end of the day, it will be a united Africa that presents the only real and lasting solution to forced displacement – an Africa working together … as one.

THEME OF THE YEAR

Africa needs to set up its own MEASUREMENT SYSTEM

"Refugees Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons" The role of the African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC)

By Mme Leila BEN ALI and Mr. Samson Bel-Aube NOUGBODOHOUE; Department of Economic Affairs

Following the AU declaration of 2019 as the Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa, Africa needs now more than ever accurate and timely data on refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, to address the challenge for the African continent. Currently the data related to this group of persons is produced by international organisations, non-governmental organization (NGOs), civil society and other actors instead of the national statistics offices (NSOs), who are recognized as the main producers of official statistics and data in Africa. These data are by and large a source of controversy in African countries as they come from estimates made by these organizations without the involvement of the main continental, regional and national actors of the African statistical system. Most of these data are often rejected by African Union policy organs.

Identifying and addressing the issues

Data on refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) is essential if Africa is committed to addressing and implementing durable solutions. The availability of data is affected by challenges such as:

- Queries on sources of available data which may be rejected due to lack of details origin e.g the data on IDPs in South Sudan and Ethiopia have previously been rejected by the senior authorities of those countries.
- Lack of data at a continental level;
- The commitment by African states to embrace accurate and reliable data and research for sustainable policy making.

To address the issue of data availability, the African Union Commission (AUC) has prioritised the need to develop a comprehensive methodology on measurement of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons. This methodology will strengthen the capacity of member states to produce harmonised, accurate and timely data and enable the AUC to develop comprehensive database. AU member in support of this initiative have to set up national committees on data on refugees, returnees and IDPs and they will oversee validation of data, data collection and analysis on refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons for each African country. These committees will comprise relevant ministries, the national statistics offices and the development partners at national level (IOM, UNHCR, UNDOC, AU Liaison Office, ILO, UNWOMEN, UNDP, EU delegation, etc..)

The role of STATAFRIC

The African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC), which will be based in Tunis, will be the only pan-African reference centre for the production, harmonisation and dissemination of quality statistics in Africa, and will also play the leading role in the implementation of the revised Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA 2) and the African Charter of Statistics (ACS).

In line with the implementation of SHaSA 2, its recommended that the AU should set up an African working group whose role will include:

- Developing an action plan for improving statistics on refugees, returnees and IDPs
- Developing harmonised tools for data collection
- Listing and develop key indicators
- Sharing challenges, good practice and experiences in data collection, production and dissemination of data in the matter and reinforce South/South cooperation and knowledge.

The working group would present an annual report to the Committee of Directors Generals of National Statistics Offices (CoDGs) on the progress made by AU member states in production of the quality and accurate data on refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.

STATAFRIC would be the technical secretariat of the working group. and organise regular meetings of the African working group on as well as set up a forum for the mobilisation of resources for conducting regular basic surveys.

STATAFRIC should initiate a periodic survey conducted every 3 years by member states on this topic with STATAFRIC providing technical support for the survey as well as identifying funding opportunities to provide financial support for all African countries. STATAFRIC would also publish an annual report to contribute to the visibility of the data gathered as well as provide data on the economic impact on which can be used for decision making by policy organs.

In line with the implementation of the data component of the Joint AU/ILO/IOM/ECA Labour Migration Statistics Programme, the AUC released in 2017, the 1st edition of Labour Migration Statistics Report in Africa. (2nd edition scheduled for September 2019). The Report provides statistics on labour migration in Africa such as (i) stocks and flows of labour migration; (ii) labour migration by education background; (iii) labour migration by economic activity and (iv) statistics on remittances of labour migrants.

STATAFRIC with the support of the Pan African Statistics (PAS) Programme has developed the methodology on measuring irregular migration and associated protection risks. This methodology is under pilot in various African countries in order to have data on irregular migration, human trafficking, human smuggling and international protection of African migrants. STATAFRIC has also signed an agreement with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) for a grant of US$6 million to strengthen the capacity of AU member states and regional economic communities on migration statistics.

THEME OF THE YEAR

REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:

Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa

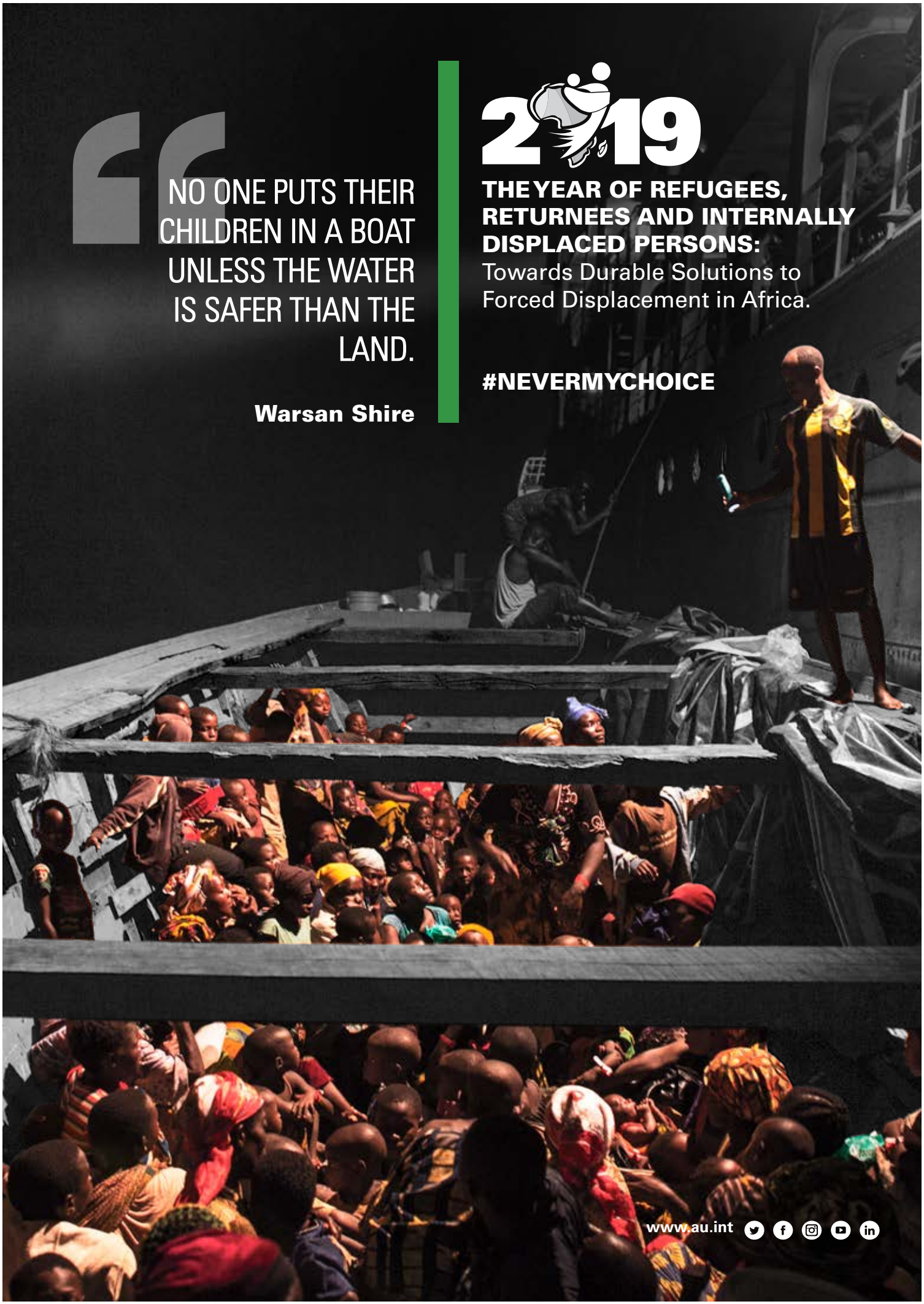
By Dr Funeka Yazini April, Mr Robert Phiri & Dr Gaitree Gowreesunkar

The African continent has developed significantly over the years and has been labelled the future economic growth engine of the world. In 2017, the African Development Bank reported Africa to be the world's second-fastest growing economy, and expected it to reach a GDP of $29 trillion by 2050. However, despite all these positive economic trends, continental growth continues to be hampered by migration challenges. The continent currently hosts 509,900 asylum seekers and 712 stateless persons. This desk top study investigates efforts by the African Union (AU) and its member states' adherence to the comprehensive frameworks governing refugees and displacement. The frameworks examined are the Kampala and the OAU Refugee Conventions. Nigeria which is a state party to the afore-mentioned conventions is used as a reference. Based on the Nigeria analysis, the key findings of the paper are that civil-military coordination, burden-sharing, legislative coordination, and prosecutions should be considered as solutions by the AU in addressing refugees, returnees, and internally displaced persons.

The large-scale displacement of people has become a key challenge in Africa. The Global Report for internally displaced persons (IDP's), notes that there are currently 68.5 million people globally that are forcefully displaced, of which about 22 million are refugees and 46 million are IDPs1. Globally, we are averaging at about 44,400 forceful displacements on a daily basis2. Africa accounts for 5.5 million of these displacements3. Moreover, 15,000 people are displaced every day inside African countries4. Women and children make up half of those who are internally displaced. Forced displacement is in many instances, a consequence of conflict and governance challenges. People can either be displaced internally (we refer to this category of persons as IDPs) or externally (refugees). The drivers of forced displacement are conflict, climate change, food and water insecurity, natural disasters such as floods but also social, economic and political factors.

This paper examines 2 legislative frameworks: the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) and the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention (OAU Convention). Reference is made to Nigeria, as it is a state party to both conventions and hosts a large number of refugees, IDP's and returnees, which continue to have a great impact on the Lake Chad region. There are also several lessons that can be drawn from Nigeria's experiences •••

1 Filippo Grandi, Mark Lowcock, Achim Steiner, and William Lacy Swing. 2018. Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018). Internal Displacement Monitoring Center. Available on http:\\www.internal-displacement.org. [Accessed on 14 February 2019]
2 Ibid
3 Author Unknown. May 2018. 2018 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018) Internal Displacement Monitoring Center. Available on http:\\www.reliefweb.int. [Accessed on 14 February 2019]
4 2017 Africa Report on Internal Displacement, 06 Dec 2017, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. Available on http:\\www.reliefweb.int. [Accessed on 14 February 2019]


NO ONE PUTS THEIR CHILDREN IN A BOAT UNLESS THE WATER IS SAFER THAN THE LAND.
Warsan Shire
2019
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••• due to its legislative efforts to address itsmigration challenges.

Key issues guiding this study are the :Adequacy of the AU legal frameworks, and adherence by are countries; the nature and extent of challenges of refugees, returnees, and internally displaced persons in Africa and the strengths and weaknesses of operationalizing the frameworks in Nigeria

Adherence to Legal Frameworks:
At the 32nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU), one of the key decisions made was to call on all Member States to sign, ratify, domesticate, and implement all the relevant policy frameworks dealing with forced displacement. Currently, from a total of 55 African countries, 40 have signed the Kampala Convention while only 27 have ratified it. Emphasis was also placed on the need for effective political leadership to resolve conflicts in Africa through adopting policies and strategies that strengthen national systems and structures that prevent conflict and displacement on the continent. Progress has been with examples of adherence to the conventions in countries such as Burkina Faso, Mauritius and Senegal which have criminalised forced displacement as a crime against humanity[5].

Countries such as Mali have also begun domesticating the two conventions through implementation of the National Strategy for IDPs, which specifically addresses the potential role of the international community and the local sector by ensuring good coordination and cooperation[6]. Regional adherence has been implemented at a continental level through the AU Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018 – 2030) which calls upon states to create standards and procedures, based on law and policy, for the return, re-admission and reintegration of excludable migrants in line with relevant International legal instruments. Moreover, in 2018, AU member states endorsed the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration. It commits member states to cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration.

The OAU Convention addresses specific challenges faced by African countries in responding to refugee crises on the continent. The international legal framework for the protection of refugees comprises, inter alia, international refugee law as well as international human rights law[7]. The primary concern behind the creation of the OAU Convention in the 1960's was the large number of Africans fleeing conflict arising from the struggles against colonialism. During this era there was a lot of collaboration between the African countries, evidenced by the commendable burden sharing offer of resettlement places by African countries. More than 50 years on, the OAU Convention remains the first reference point when addressing refugee problems in Africa, and it has considerably influenced the domestic legislation of most countries on the continent. However, there is a need to revisit the OAU Convention, including its definition of a refugee, in light of today's Africa, and ensure that it continues to reflect the actual situations which today cause people to flee[8]. The Kampala Convention is internationally recognized as a ground-breaking instrument. It is the first binding instrument of its kind at the regional level negotiated and adopted within a multilateral framework of international law-making to address the challenge of internal displacement. It has recognized and broadened varied causes of internal displacement such as natural disasters, armed conflicts, development-induced projects and internal strife, to mention a few[9].

The internationally recognised Kampala Convention was ground-breaking as the 1st binding instrument of its kind negotiated and adopted within a multilateral framework of international law to address the challenge of internal displacement.

Country Assessment: Nigeria
Lessons learnt from Nigeria include: coordination of legislative frameworks, burden sharing, protection of returnees, inclusivity of civil society and local government, and politicization of migration.

Forced migration and internal displacement in Nigeria is not a new phenomenon. The first incidence can be traced back to the Biafran War, from 1967- 1970[10]. To date the Nigerian conflict in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States which spilled over into neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger has resulted in a regional displacement crisis in the Lake Chad Region with over 1.8 million internally displaced IDPs in Nigeria, 87% of whom originate from Borno State, and nearly 200,000 refugees in Cameroon, Chad and Niger[11]. The Nigerian

5 Translating the Kampala Convention into practice: A stocktaking exercise. International Review of the Red Cross (2017), 99 (1), 365–420.
6 Ibid
7 Key Legal Considerations on the Standards of Treatment of Refugees Recognized under the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. International Journal of Refugee Law, 2018, Vol 30, No 1, 166–172
8 JO Moses Okello. 2014. The 1969 OAU Convention and the continuing challenge for the African Union. Forced Migration. Available on http://www.fmreview.org. [Accessed on 21 February 2019]
9 Adama Dieng. 2018. Protecting internally displaced persons: The value of the Kampala Convention as a regional example. International Review of the Red Cross Journal. Volume 99, Issue 904
10 Fatima Kyari Mohammed. The Causes and Consequences of Internal Displacement in Nigeria and Related Governance Challenges. Working Paper Division Global Issues Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik German Institute for International and Security Affairs. Working Paper FG 8 April 2017 SWP Berlin

government has been very engaged in the IDP process through its military. The military has been managing most of the IDP camps in government-controlled towns through various measures such as military screening[12]. However, over the years there have been growing calls for a more robust civilian-military coordination mechanism to navigate the challenging IDP environment which is still to be determined[13].

Legislative Adherence and coordination: The Nigerian government has been very successful in domestically promoting the Kampala Convention from a legislative capacity, locally and nationally. In 2019 the Nigerian Senate passed for second reading, a bill seeking to domesticate and find legal frameworks for the Kampala Convention. However, the government also acknowledged existing challenges of IDPs management as not being adequately addressed under existing domestic laws due to an overlap of statutory responsibilities or the poor delineation of mandates[14]. Numerous government bodies claim to be heading the IDP response and are vying for funds and influence. Several international organizations also allude to a lack of coherence between federal, state, and local actors which must be done by clearly defining and communicating the roles, division of labor, and areas of responsibility for each body coordinating and responding to the Northeast crisis[15].

The IDP Return Process and Burden Sharing: The Nigerian government is commended for intervening on behalf of the Nigerian refugees and IDP's who fled to the Lake Chad region, Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The afore-mentioned countries adopted the 2016 Abuja Action Statement to galvanize a protection-focused approach to solutions for displaced persons[16], which also promoted the OAU Convention concept of burden sharing. The OAU Convention indicates that member states shall, in the spirit of African solidarity and international co-operation, take appropriate measures to lighten the burden of the member states granting refuge, or asylum[17]. Article 10 of the Kampala Convention also highlights the need to address displacement associated with development projects[18].

However violations of the Kampala and OAU Conventions have been cited by experts who argue that people have been forcibly moved to militarised displacement camps and villages in Borno state, where the Boko Haram insurgency and military operations are still ongoing[19]. Article II of the OAU Convention obliges AU member states to receive refugees and to secure the settlement of refugees who are unable or unwilling to return home. The ultimate goal of international protection is to achieve durable solutions for refugees and IDP's[20]. Needless to say, due to forced returns, the absence of coordinated plans for returning, systems of accountability, and implementation monitoring probably had a disastrous effect on the lives of the displaced.

The Politicization of migration: Politics also play a major role in the adherence of the legislative instruments. During the 2019 election campaigns demonstrated some political leaders appeared intent on demonstrating success in the war against Boko Haram in the public discourse as a key metric of this success[21]. Promoting returns was sometimes portrayed as the preferred solution, thereby reducing the 'solution' to the mere physical movement of return or resettlement, and favourably bringing down the IDP population figures[22], which violates the OAU and Kampala Conventions.

Key Interventions Required

There are several lessons to be drawn from the Nigerian case in regards to legislative adherence. The OAU Convention needs to be re-examined given the current global climate. Unlike the years leading up to independence, the leading causes of refugees and forced displacement in Africa today are largely home-grown due to conflict and economics. Furthermore, since the rise of international terrorism, security has also taken the prime position in the consideration of asylum for refugees which is demonstrated through the militarization of the Nigerian IDP camps, and forced returnees[23]. Based on the Nigerian case, this paper offers the following solutions:

1. **Civil-military coordination:** In order to strengthen the conventions, inclusivity between the military, different ministries, civil society organizations[24], as well as IDPs, host communities, and local governments, is essential. Civil-military coordination will facilitate effective cooperation and legislative adherence;
2. **Burden Sharing:** This OAU concept is very critical in the current global migration climate. African governments should collectively consider the need for viable strategies, particularly when there is continued insecurity for refugees and IDP's;

11 Author Unknown. 2018. Directions on Protection, Access and Solutions for IDPs and Returnees in North-Eastern Nigeria. Report. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Government of Nigeria. Available on http://www.reliefweb.int. [Accessed on 21 February 2019]
12 Alexandra Lamarche and Mark Yarnell. 2018. Political Pressure to Return. Putting Northeast Nigeria's Displaced Citizens at Risk. Refugees International. Available on http://www.refugeesinternational.org
13 Ibid
14 Author Unknown. 2018. Bill Seeking To Domesticate The African Union Convention For The Protection And Assistance Of Internally Displaced Persons Passes Second Reading In Senate. Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre. Available on http://www.placng.org. [Accessed on 21 February 2019]
15 Alexandra Lamarche and Mark Yarnell. 2018. Political Pressure to Return. Putting Northeast Nigeria's Displaced Citizens at Risk. Refugees International. Available on http://www.refugeesinternational.org
16 Author Unknown. 2018. Directions on Protection, Access and Solutions for IDPs and Returnees in North-Eastern Nigeria. Report. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Government of Nigeria. Available on http://www.reliefweb.int. [Accessed on 21 February 2019]
17 JO Moses Okello. 2014. The 1969 OAU Convention and the continuing challenge for the African Union. Forced Migration. Available on http://www.fmreview.org. [Accessed on 21 February 2019]
18 Author Unknown. May 2018. 2018 Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018) Internal Displacement Monitoring Center. Available on http:\\www.reliefweb.int. [Accessed on 14 February 2019]
19 Ibid
20 Key Legal Considerations on the Standards of Treatment of Refugees Recognized under the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. International Journal of Refugee Law, 2018, Vol 30, No 1, 166–172
21 Alexandra Lamarche and Mark Yarnell. 2018. Political Pressure to Return. Putting Northeast Nigeria's Displaced Citizens at Risk. Refugees International. Available on http://www.refugeesinternational.org
22 Chaloka Beyani, Natalia Krynsky Baal and Martina Caterina. Conceptual challenges and practical solutions in situations of internal displacement
23 JO Moses Okello. 2014. The 1969 OAU Convention and the continuing challenge for the African Union. Forced Migration. Available on http://www.fmreview.org. [Accessed on 21 February 2019]
24 Translating the Kampala Convention into practice: A stocktaking exercise. International Review of the Red Cross (2017), 99 (1), 365–420.

3. **Legislative Coordination:** Intergovernmental coordination of regional legislation at a national and local government level is essential to avoid the fragmented approach of many disjointed players demonstrated in the Nigeria case.
   A monitoring mechanism to improve state capacities is also proposed for the AU. An effective monitoring mechanism will add to donor confidence about the impact of protection and assistance activities for refugees and IDPs[25] and;
4. **Prosecutions:** Currently, there are few or no prosecutions relating to crimes under the Kampala Convention taking place in domestic courts today. Instead, human rights violations continue to be a major cause of conflict-related internal displacement in Africa. The AU member states should consider prosecuting armed groups as they are prohibited from carry out arbitrary displacement or creating harm[26]. A lot of sexual violence and child kidnapping for military recruitment persists because of lack of accountability. Accountability of non-state actors involved in the exploitation of economic and natural resources, or political instability leading to displacement is enshrined in the Kampala Convention[25]. Strong and clear criminal prohibitions relating to displacement can have an important deterrent effect and can contribute to broader efforts to combat impunity for violations of human rights.

Dr Funeka Yazini April, *Lead Author & Secretary, AU ECOSOCC Research & Advisory Coordination Committee (RACC).* ***Contributors:*** *Mr Robert Phiri, Professor Cheryl Hendricks and Dr Gaitree Gowreesunkar*

25 Ibid
26 Adama Dieng. 2018. Protecting internally displaced persons: The value of the Kampala Convention as a regional example. International Review of the Red Cross Journal. Volume 99, Issue 904
27 Adama Dieng. 2018. Protecting internally displaced persons: The value of the Kampala Convention as a regional example. International Review of the Red Cross Journal. Volume 99, Issue 904

African Union

An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa

2019

THE YEAR OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS: TOWARDS DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN AFRICA.

Every year, the Heads of State and Government of The African Union decide upon a theme which focuses on a key issue facing the continent and which constitutes a focal area upon which the key activities and messages of the African Union will be anchored.

In 2019 the annual theme of the African Union is "The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa.

The 2019 AU Theme is driven by the need for greater commitment by Africa to address the plight of its citizens in forced migration situations, by implementing strategic and relevant programmes and working towards the ratification of the various AU treaties and legal instruments addressing the plight of refugees and displaced persons to ensure we achieve the goal of Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063 to provide a peaceful and secure environment for all Africans on the continent.

Various AU treaties governing issues related to refugees, human rights, governance and promoting peace on the continent include the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, OAU Convention for the Elimination of Mercenaries in Africa, OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

Find out more about these treaties as well and their status of ratification by African states by visiting **www.au.int**

About the 2019 Theme Logo: *The logo for the Theme of the Year has been built around the crisis facing refugees in Africa. Whereas migration is a common phenomenon as people have always relocated for various reasons, in the case of Africa the continent is often painted as a miserable place because migration is as a result of civil strife, poverty and a myriad of other factors thereby promoting the narrative that Africa cannot care for its people. Africans and their governments have always opened their borders and welcomed into their communities their brothers and sister fleeing their homes for various reasons providing a safe haven as long as it is required.*

The 2019 AU theme logo shows a mother embracing Africa with its child which encompasses love and affection. Africa knows how to take care of its own in each regard no matter what.

African Union Headquarters P.O. Box 3243, Roosvelt Street W21K19, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia **Tel:** +251 (0) 11 551 77 00 **Fax:** +251 (0) 11 551 78 44

THEME OF THE YEAR

Women's role in Peace & Security

Interview with H.E Bineta Diop Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security

1. What unique challenges confront women and girls who are refugees, returnees and IDPs?

Allow me to briefly touch on human migration, and what it has meant historically before directly moving to addressthe unique challenges of women and girls refuges, returnees and IDPs. I want to draw attention to the fact that movement – migration is human and fabric of more inclusive tolerant and diverse societies. Migration has over the years enriched cultures and civilizations with migrants contributing to major advancements in their host societies. Hence, the African Union's call for free movement and free trade movement and the introduction of Africa's passport, all of which are flagship projects. Movement of people- migration becomes issue of concern only in a context, when people are forced to flee their homes. The way we manage it depends on how we perceive, portray and most importantly, how we deal with the people. For long time, and more so recently with the rise of nationalist tendencies, the issue of migration has become a very controversial issue, especially as it pertains to migration from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe.

The African Union being cognizant of this, adopted the theme of the year and thus dedicated its focus on management of Refugees, Returnees and IDPs towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement.

Forced displacement clearly is the worst kind of people's movement as it means not only losing your home, but entails dropping you dreams, plans, identity and being moved to nowhere with no end in sight; with endless hopelessness and endless fear.

This gloomy situation is even starker to women and girls, who usually are less advantaged even in a stable communities. Refugee centers are extensions of the environment with rampant burden on the women and girls. There is a pervasive culture of discrimination and sexual and gender based violence is a daily reality which destroys their lives and has devastating consequences to the society as large, as rebuilding the broken human being is not as easy as rebuilding infrastructure. Often times these scars remain for life thereby affecting future generations as women are the nurturers of the young.

From the initial point of forced displacement, which in Africa commonly arises from conflict and political instability, women and girls are left with all the duties of taking care of the children and running the households, as the men and boys take arms and join sides of warring parties.

Moreover, women, children and family members of actors in the conflict become targets. They are the weak links, therefore put in cruel prisons, abused and raped in many cases. This is contrary to the laws of war, but then parties to current conflicts, more often than not are non- state actors and terrorist groups which do not have the compulsion to engage in accordance to the laws of war. They utilize the women, children and the aged as a tool of war, pawns to compel the other party to surrender. The Chibok girls is a case in point. In many cases this happens to a whole community of wives and children who are left behind by their husbands and sons.

There are even times in history where women and children prisoners were forgotten by the incarcerators, women and girls end up being the invisible prisoners.

Those who escape mange to reach a host country end up being a single mothers- carrying for the whole family- and daughters

Another concern that is not yet supported by data, is the ever increasing tendency of African youth, mostly young women, going to Middle East countries as house helps. Most usually end in dire circumstances. There is an increasing tendency of sexual violence and at times unexplained death.

In general terms, women and girls remain disadvantaged, face specific risks and vulnerabilities such as sexual and gender based violence and minimal access to services. In one of the Solidarity Missions we conducted in in DRC in 2017, we went to an area commonly known as -'Triangle of Death'- Beni, Mbau and Kamango, we met women refugees in the most atrocious situations. They had settled, built their huts and were looking after their kids. Earlier that week, they had gone out to fetch firewood and water, and upon their return they saw from afar smoke and the ruins of their huts. Militia men came destroyed the whole camp and moved on. This is not uncommon in camps. They are double victims.

2. Geographically, which areas are faced with these challenges and why?

In Africa, recent data shows that at least the continent hosts 6.2 million refugees and asylum seekers. Moreover, the number of IDPs too is ever increasing and currently stands at over 16 million. These people are distributed throughout Africa, but mostly in the Sahel, Central Africa and the Horn of Africa and other volatile places on the continent, such as Libya. One unfortunate fact is that the trend of people's displacement and sexual violence worsens as the conflict stays longer. It is important to note that the issue of refugees and IDPs is rarely remains a national issue, it always adversely affects the whole region. Currently, the G5 is suffering from violent extremism, with the Boko Haram and other violent extremist groups finding

their breeding ground and transferring their terrorist activities into neighboring countries thereby destabilizing the region.

3. Why should African Women and girls who were forced to leave the continent look forward to coming back? What does Africa offer them if they return?

Allow me to address the question why and where do Africans migrate to then we will consider the issue of coming back. Despite the common perception and depiction that migrants and refugees move to Europe, statistics indicate that more than half of migrants and refugees remain on the Continent. At the global scale, Africa hosts a third of world refugees and IDPs, this fact has to be interrogated in view of the fact that they host them at great cost to their fragile economies. Moreover, there seems to be fatigue on the part of partners who are not so willing to support the host governments financially, or take on refugees as third country hosts. Therefore, it is imperative that our solutions be inward looking.

These movements are not necessarily, motivated by pull factor but push factor. This push factor is mainly insecurity-conflict and poverty and climate change. Devastating droughts have led to refugees crossing onto neighboring countries. This understanding helps us to prioritize our strategy. Women and children are running away in search of safety and security. Therefore, the best way to secure the women and children is to ensure sustainable peace which in turn will assure development.

It is important to keep in mind that the other face of a migrant and or refugee is that of youth. The youth, and here I'm referring specifically to the migrant, leave their home countries aspiring for a better socio-economic conditions If they can see the potential for access to education and employment. Creating a peaceful environment therefore needs an all-inclusive cross cutting peacebuilding and reconciliatory process where women, youth and other victims are represented. Such dialogue and reconciliation platforms and infrastructure, as well as youth employment has to be prioritized at all levels, including the AU-UN Joint framework.

4. At a political level, what interventions are ongoing?

The issue of Refugees, Returnees and IDPs on the African continent has always been central given the reality of coups, instability and fragile ecosystem. Africa has always been a strong political player in framing global policies and solutions.

The fact that this year's theme dedicated to Refugees, Returnees, and IDPS: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced displacement in Africa did not come in a vacuum. It is not also the first time that the Commission has adopted this theme.

For instance, if you consider Agenda 2063, the bigger framework towards an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa we want, it is evident that it is no place for IDPs. Every crosscutting issues addressed in the Agenda 2063. Moreover, concrete steps regarding this issue dates back five decades as envisaged in the landmark legal instruments from 1951 and 1969 pioneer legal documents.

It is therefore not surprising that Africa had a tremendous leading role in the adoption of Global Compact on Refugee and Migration, a non-binding international agreements which set out recommendations for enhancing international cooperation. The Compact also calls for empowerment of refugee women and girls and for their full participation in decision making processes. However, few AU member states have embarked on piloting a Comprehensive Refugee Reponses Framework and related progressive approaches that allow for refugees to go to school and work.

It is heartening to note that at member state- level, there are progressive directions around the issue. For example Ethiopia has recently adopted a very progressive law towards integration of Refugees, making them self-reliant. This law allows refugees the right to work. It further reserves 10% of job opportunities in its mega industrial parks to refugees. These are the kind of initiatives that need to be encouraged emulated at a continental level.

5. What collaboration is there with other offices, organs, and departments of the AU, to ensure successful implementation of the Solutions to forced displacement

Activities under AU's 2019 theme of the year are implemented through strong coordination involving the RECs, other organs, offices and departments of the African Union. At the highest political-level, the President of Equatorial Guinea H.E. Mr Theodore Obiang Nguema Mbasogo provides political leadership and support as the champion of the theme. Member States in the PRC oversee its implementation through its Sub-Committee on Refugees, Migrants and Displaced Persons.

In March the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security collaborated with the Department for Political Affairs, UNHCR and other stakeholders in organizing an Open-Ended Session of the AUPSC on the Role of Refugee and Displaced Women in Peace-Building. The meeting requested the development of the Guidelines which would support the inclusion and mainstreaming of the rights of refugee women and displaced persons in the AU Peace and Security Architecture. This is currently being developed through a joint work involving the AU Directorate on Gender and other stakeholders. An important consultative meeting on mixed migration would also be undertaken through a joint collaboration with the AUC Department of Social Affairs. The purpose of the meeting is to review progress and develop effective approaches in finding solutions for refugees and migrants who find themselves in difficult and deteriorating situations.

One of the main continental consultative meetings of the AU theme of the year relates to engagement with members of the Pan African Parliament. On 13th May, the AUC collaborated with PAP in organizing an awareness creation session for members of PAN on their role to support national, sub-regional and continental efforts to address the problem of forced displacement. This consultative meeting involves experience sharing and introducing members of PAP to existing international and regional standards on refugees and displaced persons and tools that have been developed to support the role of parliamentarians.

The AUC has been working very closely with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights particularly it's Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Migrants, Asylum Seekers and IDPs. The Special Rapporteur actively participated in the joint AU-UNHCR Training on Humanitarian Law and Policy and also contributed to the high-level roundtable on root-causes and durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa held on 9 February 2019.

AU REFORMS

Reforming the African Union to Deliver Africa's Agenda 2063

> Events on our continent and across the world continue to confirm the urgency and necessity of the reforms. The goal is simple: To make Africa stronger and give our people the future they deserve…. We have passed the halfway point and the end is in sight
>
> **H.E. President Paul Kagame**

To realise Africa's development objectives the African Union (AU) has set out a comprehensive Institutional Reform agenda that lays a strong foundation for the organisation's structural transformation to ensure delivery of the socio-economic aspirations of Africa's development blueprint, Agenda 2063.

The Institutional Reforms aim to ensure that the AU is a better structured, sustainably financed, properly and soundly managed institution that responds to the emerging realities, addresses the challenges and untapped opportunities for Africa to realise inclusive and sustainable development.

In taking stock of the progress made in the AU reforms agenda, there is no doubt that the institutional changes envisaged are no longer a question of necessity but on how to realise the set goals of the reform agenda. The new reform approach places strategic importance on the significant oversight role of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government in the reform process, to ensure its successful implementation.

H.E. Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, and Champion of the AU Institutional Reforms; working with the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union, has led the supervision of the implementation of the reforms and issues progress updates at each Ordinary Session of the Assembly. Twenty Ministers of Foreign Affairs (four per region) play an advisory role to the reform process.

The AU reforms are wide reaching and currently focus on the secretariat of the Union, namely the AU Commission (AUC), the African Union Development Agency, (formerly the New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency, NEPAD), and the financial reforms of the Union.

Reforming the AU Commission.

The AUC is reviewing the existing structure towards a leaner departmental structure that reflects a new performance-based commission that can deliver Agenda 2063 and drive the continental priorities. The leaner structure will see a reduction of the elective positions from the current 10 to 8 positions and will take into account the division of labour between the AUC, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, Member States and continental organisations to eliminate duplication and overlap, in terms of mandates and functions.

To strengthen the selection process for senior leadership, the AU has introduced a new competency-based assessment that will be overseen by a Panel of Eminent Africans, assisted by an independent African consultancy firm. The Panel of Eminent Africans composed of 5 personalities (1 per region) will oversee the pre-selection of candidatures nominated by the member states to vie for the positions of the senior leadership of the AUC. The election of the senior leadership of the Commission shall take into account gender and equitable regional representation and rotation.

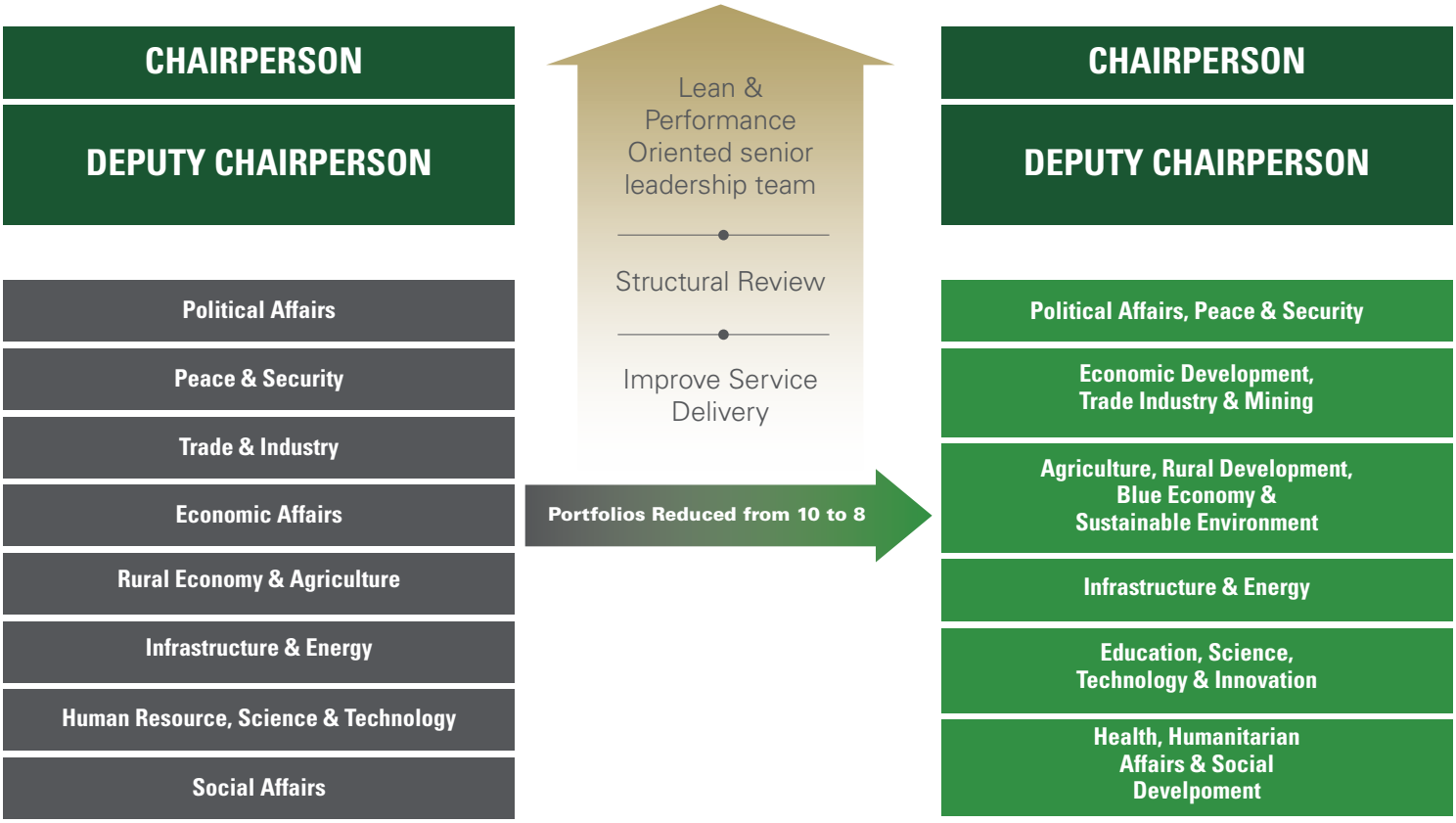
The proposed structure of the Commission for the six (6) elective positions for the African Union Commissioners shall be as follows;

1. Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment;
2. Economic Development, Trade, Industry and Mining;
3. Education, Science, Technology and Innovation;
4. Infrastructure and Energy;
5. Political Affairs, Peace and Security;
6. Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development;

> it is important to keep in mind the reasons for which the reform was initiated. Basically, it is about giving us, through the Union, the human, material, financial and political means to meet the strong and legitimate expectations of our States and our peoples.
>
> **Moussa Faki Mahamat, AUC Chairperson**

The Commission will also create a non-elected post of Director-General to lead the operational co-ordination of the AUC's departments and non-elected staff. The title of the current post of the Secretary General shall revert to the Secretary to the Commission.

INSTITUTIONAL REALIGNMENT



The detailed structure, together with its financial implications will be consideration by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council scheduled for July 2019 in Niamey, Niger. Once the Executive Council adopts the new structure of the AUC a phased implementation plan will commence.

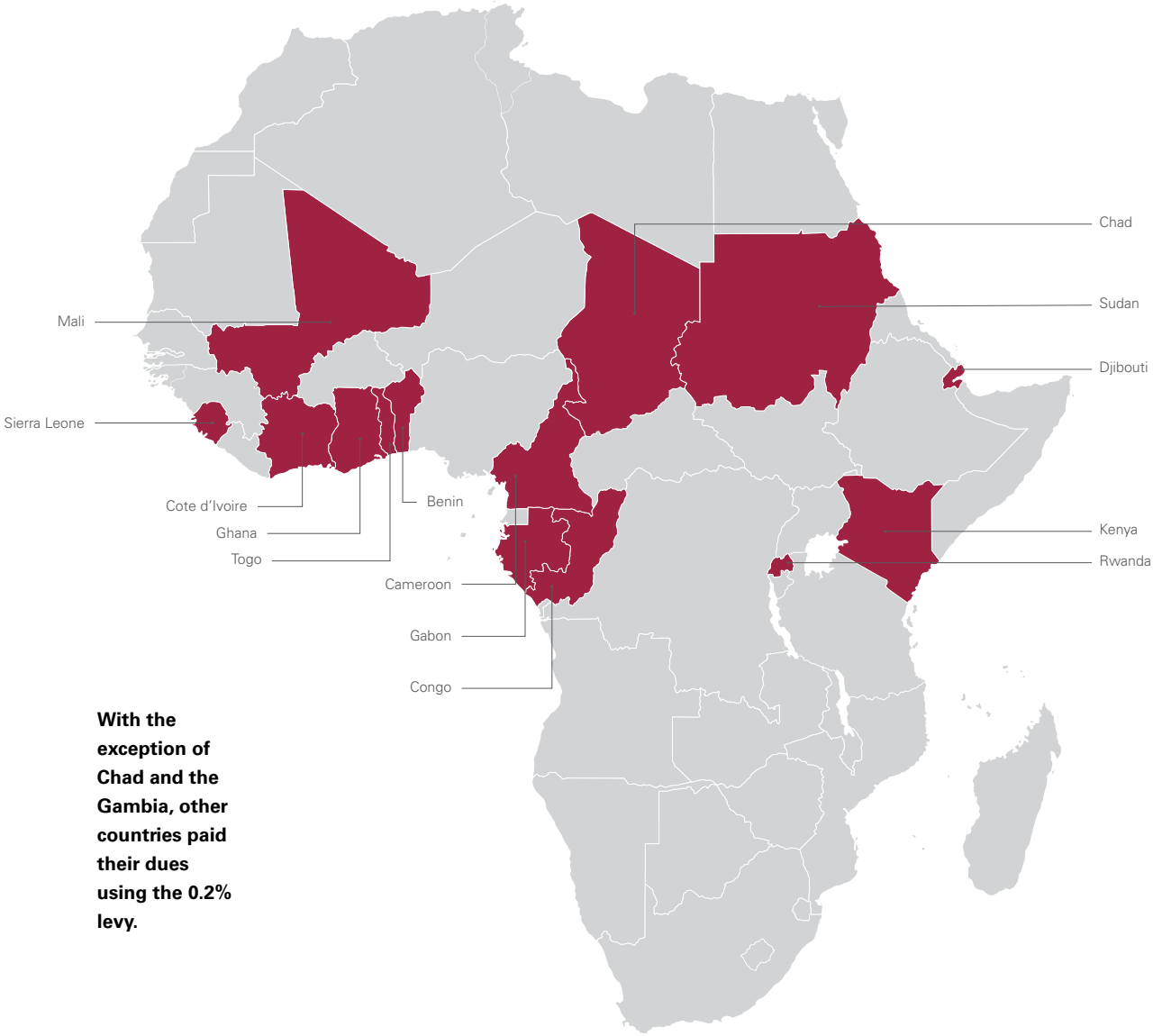
The transformation of NEPAD to AUDA.

During the AU Summit in Nouakchott, Mauritania in July 2018, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government approved the transformation of NEPAD into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA). The goals of this transformation is to ensure improved the effectiveness and efficiency in delivering the AU's development strategy, through development tools that can strengthen the capacity of all African stakeholders to better execute priority continental development projects.

AU Development Agency Mandate

- **Coordinate and execute priority regional and continental projects**
- **Promote regional integration**
- **Strengthen capacity**
- **Provide advisory support**
- **Resource mobilisation,**
- **Technical interface with stakeholders and development partners**

> Our main focus now as a development agency will be to move to the formulation of development tools that can strengthen the capacity of all African stakeholders to better execute priority development projects.
>
> **Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, AUDA-NEPAD**



With the exception of Chad and the Gambia, other countries paid their dues using the 0.2% levy.

Towards financial sustainability.
To ensure predictable and self-autonomous financing of the Union the implementation of the 0.2% levy on eligible imports has demonstrated relief of burden on national budgets of member states in meeting their dues to the AU. To date, 25 countries or 45% of AU membership are at various stages of domesticating the Kigali Decision on Financing the Union. Of the 25 countries, 16 have adopted the new revenue collection mechanism by imposing the 0.2% levy on eligible imports of which 14 countries paid their 2018 contributions to the AU, either in full or in part, through the new financing mechanism.

The AU has adopted new approaches of programme planning and budget process, to ensure greater accountability and oversight. This led to a significant reduction of the 2019 AU budget by 12% compared to the 2018 budget. An elaborate sanctions regime to ensure member states meet their financial obligations to the AU in time is now operational. The new sanctions regime stipulate the short, intermediate and long term measures member states will face for defaulting to pay partly or in full, their assessed contributions, within a period of six months to two years.

The AU adopted the revised scale of assessment that stipulates the percentage share of any given budget that each Member State will pay to the regular budget of the Union for Period 2020-2022.

In relation to the AU Peace Fund 48 Member States have, to date, contributed over US$80 million to the Fund, bringing the total contributions to and a Board of Trustees for the Peace Fund is now in place.

AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA.
Creating One African Market
24 Countries have Ratified the AfCFTA which came into effect on 30th May 2019
Find out more at www.au.africa/agenda2063
A Flagship Project of
Agend A 2063
The Africa we Want
www.au.int

AGENDA 2063

AfCFTA One Year Later: The Road Travelled and the Road towards Launch of the Operational Phase

By H.E. Amb. Albert M. Muchanga

In this commemorative article, the African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry outlines what has been achieved since the AfCFTA Agreement was opened for signature on 21st March, 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda and what is expected as the African Union moves to launch of the operational phase of the continental market in July this year.

21st **March 2019**, marked the one year anniversary of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which was opened for signature on 21st March, 2018 at an Extra-Ordinary Summit of the Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government in Kigali, Rwanda. At that Summit, 44 African Union Member States signed the historic Agreement. The number rose to 49 at the July, 2018 Nouakchott, Mauritania Summit. Three more signatures were added during the February, 2019 Addis Ababa Summit, bringing the figure to 52 as we commemorate the first Anniversary of this major milestone in Africa's resolute use of the lever of continental economic integration to deliver prosperity to her people in line with **Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.**

Making the Agreement operational is as important as having signatories. While awaiting the remaining three Member-States to sign on, Africa is making progress in the direction of securing deposits of instruments of ratification on the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA. So far, 22 National Parliaments of the AU Member-States have approved ratification of the Agreement, with 20 Member-States depositing their instruments of ratification. At this point in time, Africa is just short of 2 deposits of instruments of ratification to have the Agreement enter into force, 30 days after receiving the twenty second instrument of ratification. At the time of going to press, the remaining two Member States assured the Chairperson of the African Union Commission that they would shortly be depositing.

It has been a momentous year of hard and smart work to create an African Continental Free Trade Area with commercial substance. As we commemorate the first year of this large market space, we do so with concrete achievements. The AfCFTA is already delivering results well before it enters into force. In December 2018,in collaboration with Afrexim Bank and the Republic of Egypt, we held the First Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF), in Cairo, Egypt, which attracted above target exhibitions and business transactions. There were 1,086 exhibitors (86 above target) and had business deals over US$32 billion, well above the target of US$25 billion. This sterling achievement signals the potent force of the IATF as a viable platform and brand for trade information as well as actual growth of intra-African trade.

Africa is on target to launch the operational phase of the AfCFTA in July 2019 in Niamey, Niger where we shall hold another Extra-Ordinary Summit for that purpose as well as formally commemorate its First Anniversary. During the launch, the AfCFTA shall be fully supported with well-defined rules of origin; schedules of tariff concessions in trade in goods; an online continental non-tariff barriers monitoring and elimination mechanism; a Pan-African digital payments and settlement platform as well as an African Trade Observatory portal. After July 2019, traders across Africa will be able to make use of preferential trading arrangements offered by the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA as long as the trade relations involve the 22 or more countries that would have deposited instruments of ratification as well as conform to agreed provisions on rules of origin governing trade in the AfCFTA.

The Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government shall, at the Niamey Extra-ordinary Summit, also make a decision on the location of the secretariat of the AfCFTA which will have the principal function of implementing the Agreement through a focused work programme. Seven Member-States: Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Madagascar and Senegal submitted bids by the deadline of 20th March 2019. An assessment mission visiting these countries in May 2019 will be the basis of which a report will be prepared for consideration by the AU Ministers of Trade and the Extra-Ordinary Summit. It is the results of the assessment mission which will guide the Extra-Ordinary Summit on deciding the host of the permanent AfCFTA Secretariat. We wish all the bidders, good luck.

The work for the interim and permanent secretariats of the AfCFTA is already being cut out for them. A post launch AfCFTA

implementation plan is under preparation and will be submitted to the AU Ministers of Trade in the first week of June 2019, who, if satisfied with it, will convey it to the Extra-Ordinary Summit for its consideration and adoption in July 2019.

The vision is to create one African market. In this respect, the historic obligation for each and every Member State of the African Union is to sign and ratify the Agreement Establishing the AfCFTA. As we move towards celebrating the joyous occasion of the First Anniversary, we call, in the full spirit of Pan-Africanism and oneness; on all African Union Member-States to sign and ratify the Agreement before the July, 2019 Extra-Ordinary Summit.

In launching the AfCFTA and making it work, Africa is overcoming the historic fragmentation and isolation of her economies by opening up huge commercial opportunities as well as improving transport and communication linkages among our countries. This aggregation and connectivity are forces for accelerated growth and sustainable development of African countries will enable us and realize the vision of the African Union and Agenda 2063: ***'An integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by its citizens, representing a dynamic force in the global arena.'***

H. E. Issoufou Mahamadou, *President of Niger and Champion of the AfCFTA* **(Middle), H.E Paul Kagame,** *President of Rwanda* **(Left) and H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat,** *AUC Chairperson* **(Right) at the Unveiling ceremony of the of AfCFTA Plaque**

We are creating more than a free trade area. In January, 2018, the Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government launched the Single African Air Transport Market(SAATM) as well as opened for signature, the Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment. Moving forward, Africa shall, during this year, conclude work on schedules of specific commitments on trade in services as well as commence negotiations on Protocols on Investment, Competition Policy and Intellectual Property Rights. All these developments show that Africa is laying the ground work for the establishment of an African Common Market or Internal Market, in line with the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, signed in Abuja, Nigeria in 1991 and ratified in 1994. To this end, the February 2019 Assembly of Heads of State and Government directed the African Union Commission to undertake a readiness assessment for this stage of deeper economic integration and policy harmonization among African countries. Work is already underway to implement this strategic Summit decision.

With a strong foundation that has been created, Africa is now better positioned to speak and act as a united entity in global trade negotiations and in the process, leverage her strength to secure trade and investment deals that offer accelerated and inclusive sustainable development for her people. There is hence political, economic, commercial and diplomatic value in establishing the AfCFTA. Indeed Africa by creating the AfCFTA is also signalling to the wider world that she is committed to multilateralism and global interdependence. In this respect Africa calls on the rest of the world to re-commit in using and strengthening the multilateral trading system to promote shared prosperity among all the people of the world.

The AfCFTA is an inclusive undertaking for Africans from all walks of life: Government, Civil Society, Academia, Women, Youth, Diaspora, Labour, Entrepreneurs and several other stakeholders at the national level. With a view to broadening stakeholder involvement, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) is collaborating with the AU Commission to assist AU Member States to formulate and implement National AfCFTA Implementation Strategies, with appropriate national institutional arrangements. This will achieve two strategic objectives. In the first instance, Africa shall be bringing her continental integration project closer to the people. Secondly, AU Member-States shall be able to align national development policies and programmes to the AfCFTA legal provisions and work programme. With such alignment and policy harmonisation, Africa's prospects for rapid socio-economic development will be enhanced.

When Africa looks back to the Kigali Extra-Ordinary Summit, she does so with pride and satisfaction that a lot has been achieved in this one year. True, a lot remains to be done in the years ahead. But Africa is committed to build on this momentum and achieve much more to deepen her economic integration. It is in this spirit that we invite all Africans on the Continent, in the Diaspora and the friends of Africa to commemorate this historic day in July this year. In so doing, Africa shall be communicating to herself and the rest of the world, her resolve to create one African market and use this continental market to deliver accelerated and inclusive sustainable development as well as contribute to strengthening the multilateral trading system.

AGENDA 2063

Financing the African Continental Free Trade Area to Spur Growth

> Africa must unite and has committed to being united in order to be strong in the international system. This unity is based on promoting continental integration and the AfCFTA is the foundation. Against this background, our efforts to establish the AfCFTA will produce results if we remain united, speak with one voice and consolidate our integration.
>
> **H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger and Champion on the AfCFTA**

The African Union has set out to implement an ambitious vision to advance the political, economic and social fortunes of the continent. This vision, as articulated in the Agenda 2063 framework, has the potential of rapidly expanding the economies of the 55 member states of the AU by promoting economic diversification, inclusive growth, efficient utilization of the abundant natural and human resources, restoring peace and security in areas of strife, and in the process, eliminate poverty and uplift the wellbeing of the 1.2 billion citizens of the continent.

To realise this transformation, the continent must strengthen its capacity in a range of factors such as reliable financing through domestic resource mobilisation, sound knowledge and policy support as well as human and institutional capacity development.

The AU has invested in a number of flagship projects viewed as vital components for achieving structured sustainable growth driven by production capacities, industrialisation and trade which will culminate into high rates of employment and income generation for the Africans. To realise these flagship projects such as the African Continental Free Trae Area (AfCFTA), the AU has allocated 75% of the Program Budget to support the foundation and sustainability of the flagship projects.

Programme budget of the Union covers the execution of programmes approved by the Assembly.

a. Programmes of cross continental importance such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other flagship projects

b. Implementation of directives and decisions from AU Summits.

c. Maintaining continental response readiness for emergencies either political or social aspects such as the outbreak of Ebola and other unforeseen emergencies.

d. Coordinating common positions in the international arena such as Climate change, migration and intercontinental partnerships.

Domestic resource mobilisation to finance the AfCFTA

To actualise an African common market or internal market calls for financing strategies that support the foundation and sustainability of this lofty aspiration.

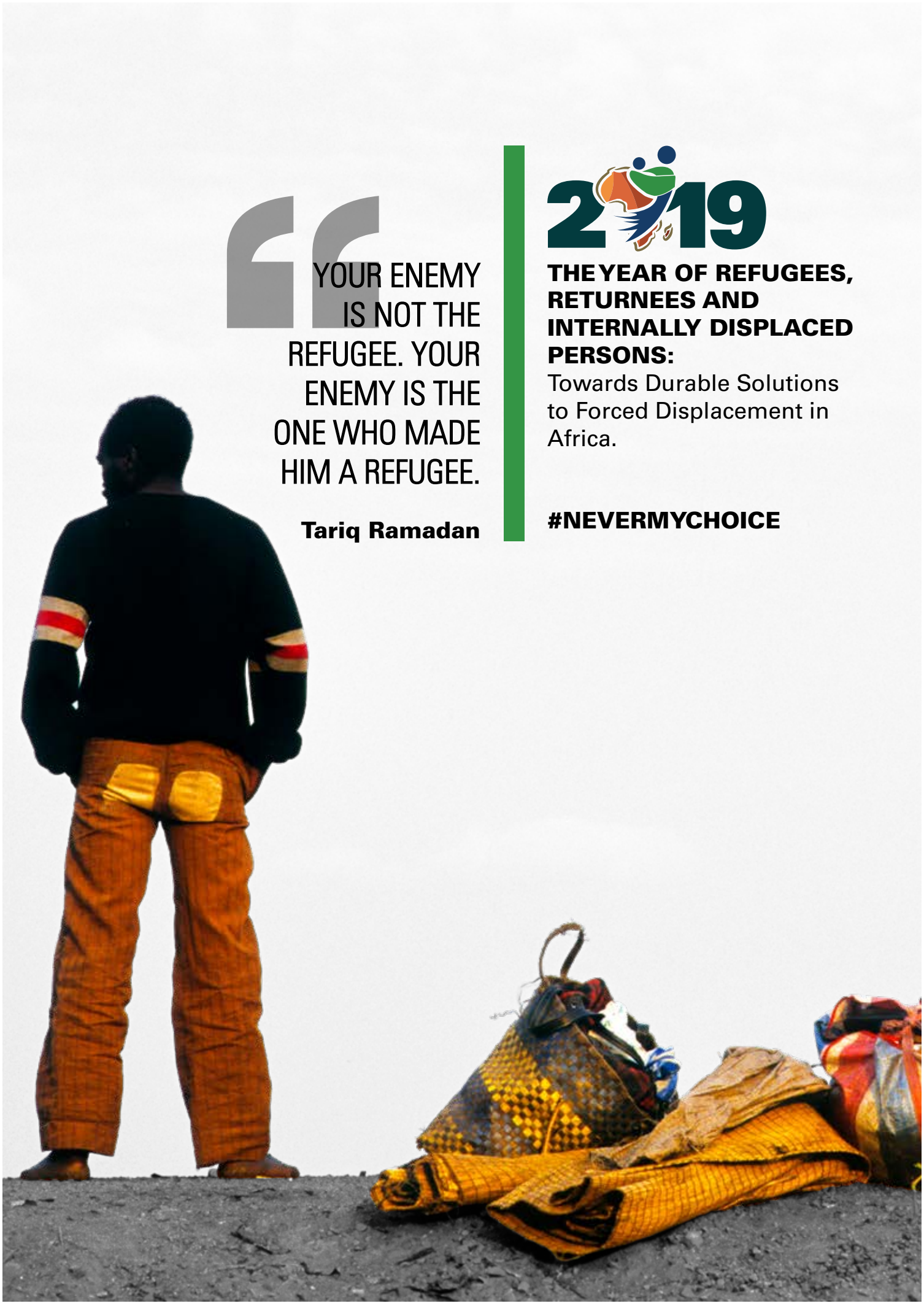
The linkage between the AfCFTA) and the momentum on Africa's self-financing agenda is evident. African Union member states have sustained this intense shift towards the full economic integration through the implementation of the decision on Financing of the Union. Since the commencement of the negotiations, considerable capital has been concentrated in supporting the AfCFTA negotiation rounds which have been funded predominantly by member states. This budgetary allocation has gone into building capacities that will facilitate smooth intra-African trade such as negotiations of the agreements and protocols as well as advocacy and sensitisation.

Financial experts argue that while the investment may seem heavy at the present, the potential of return-on-investment will be recouped in many folds. The rapid socio-economic growth expected out of the AfCFTA, an integrated market of 1.2 billion people with an estimated potential to boost intra-African trade by 52.3 per cent which will subsequently lead to gross domestic product (GDP) of over US$2.5 trillion annually.

The win-win proposition.

Rallying financial support for the flagship projects such as the AfCFTA through domestic resource mobilisation has been termed as a great value proposition for Africa. The continental market will lead to the creation of jobs which will drive poverty reduction, provide opportunities of knowledge transfer, more utilisation of technology, social cohesion, a rejuvenated Pan-African spirit and make growth more inclusive. This will all contribute to the creation of global wealth supported by the small and medium enterprises and large corporates. Intra-African trade will support the growth of productive capacities for the manufacturing sector and regional value chains and this is likely to boost the GDP growth for member states making it a win-win proposition.

The AfCFTA once operational, will be the world's largest free trade area, in terms of parties since the formation of the World Trade Organization. Twenty Four (24) countries of the minimum twenty two (22) have ratified and deposisted


"YOUR ENEMY IS NOT THE REFUGEE. YOUR ENEMY IS THE ONE WHO MADE HIM A REFUGEE.
Tariq Ramadan
2019
THE YEAR OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:
Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.
#NEVERMYCHOICE

The AfCFTA will be the world's largest free trade area, creating an integrated market of 1.2 billion people, boost intra-African trade by 52.3% which will subsequently lead to gross domestic product (GDP) of over US$2.5 trillion annually.

the instruments of ratifications with the AU Commission. This is a milestone achievement as the AfCFTA entered into force thirty days after the 22nd instrument was deposited.

AfCFTA will be a game-changer for SMEs.

With targeted and sustained efforts to support the growth potential of small and medium-sized enterprises, the opportunities with the AfCFTA are limitless. Over 70% of Africans work in small and medium-sized enterprises and they remain important drivers of economic growth in Africa.

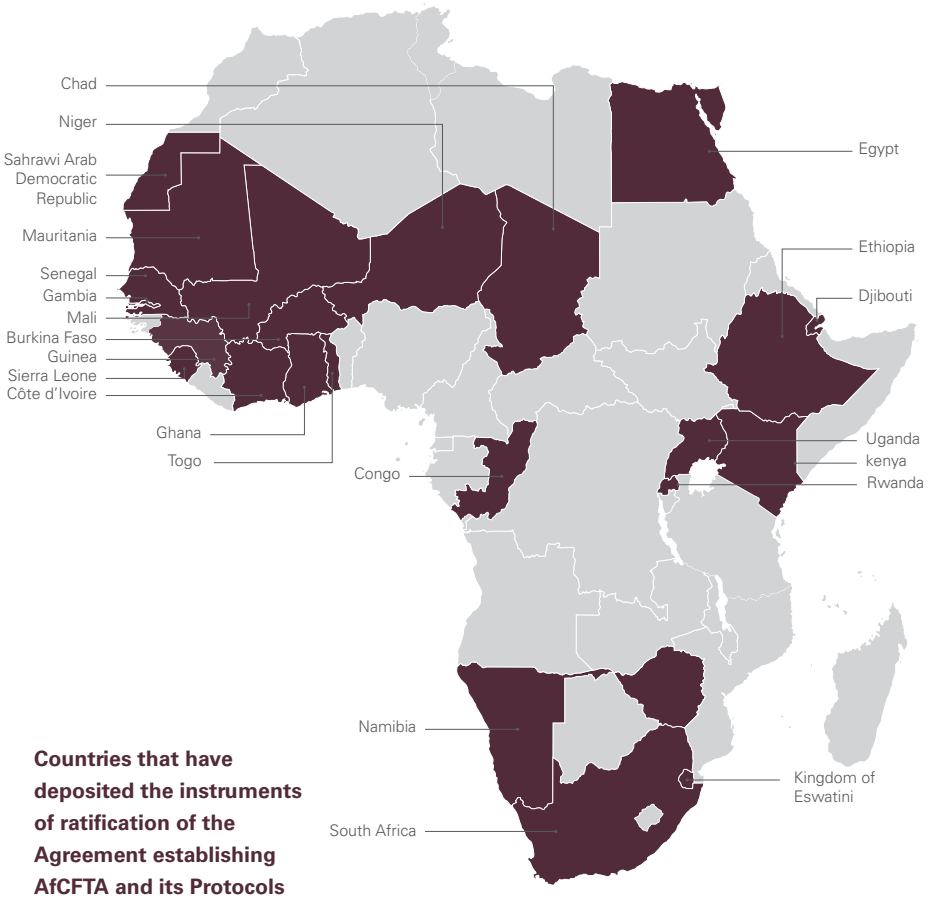
The continental market promises a spectrum of opportunities and incentives to different stakeholders and creates linkages between SMEs and large businesses in the continent and globally. Trade experts are confident the AfCFTA is an economic engine that will accelerate sustainable growth for the continent, particularly for the SMEs who stand to benefit from an expanded access to local and regional markets and improved competitiveness.

"A continental e-commerce platform is being rolled out by the AeTrade Group, an African Diaspora entity, in consultation with the African Union to ensure that within 4 years 600,000 SMEs are created resulting in a minimum of 3 million new jobs."

This will significantly stimulate the development of the SMEs and open up new opportunities for them to move their goods and services to advanced overseas markets. SMEs will be well positioned to tap into regional export destinations and regional markets as it will be easier to supply inputs to larger regional companies, who will then feed into global value chains. An example is drawn from the large automobile manufacturers in South Africa who source inputs, including leather for seats from Botswana and fabrics from Lesotho, under the preferential Southern African Customs Union trading regime, and eventually, export the cars overseas.

The AfCFTA will also bring great fortunes for women who account for approximately 70 per cent of informal cross-border traders and are set to benefit from solutions to the constraints they face as informal cross-border traders. Women are particularly vulnerable to harassment, violence, confiscation of goods and even imprisonment. By reducing tariffs and implementing the Simplified Trade Regimes, AfCFTA makes it more affordable for informal traders to operate through formal channels, which offer more protection. Women can also benefit from initiatives to connect female agricultural workers to export food markets. This potential will not be realised in a vacuum but through purposed financial policies, sound business environment and political commitment.

The AfCFTA process continues with Phase I and Phase II negotiations in 2019 and 2020. The AfCFTA will have an independent and functionally autonomous Secretariat which shall be hosted in one AU Member State. The announcement will be made in July 2019. The upcoming Extraordinary Summit in July 2019 in Niamey, Niger, will provide a platform for civil society and private sector leaders to engage with policymakers on what it will take to make the fruits of this historic achievement tangible. Africa will learn from the past experiences of the Regional Economic Communities as well as other regional blocs around the world. The ambition is to continuously innovate on how to make Africa a dynamic force in the global arena whilst aiming for its vision of an integrated, peaceful and prosperous continent.



Countries that have deposited the instruments of ratification of the Agreement establishing AfCFTA and its Protocols

IT AFFECTS AND INVOLVES US ALL, AND WHAT IT NEEDS IS UNDERSTANDING, COMPASSION AND POLITICAL WILL TO COME TOGETHER AND FIND REAL ANSWERS FOR THE REFUGEE PLIGHT. THIS HAS BECOME A DEFINING CHALLENGE OF OUR TIMES.

Filippo Grandi

2019

THE YEAR OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:
Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.

#NEVERMYCHOICE

AGENDA 2063

FINANCING **PEACE & SECURITY** IN AFRICA IS NOT ONLY AN AFRICAN PRIORITY BUT A GLOBAL STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE

A peaceful and secure environment is an imperative for the attainment of any socio-economic agenda and the African Union has devised strategies that respond to the evolving complex nature of conflicts and crisis in the continent including implementation of sustainable funding for peace and security activities.

The AU has made commendable progress in its domestic resource mobilisation agenda through the implementation of the 0.2% levy on eligible imports to finance 100% operational budget, 75% program budget and 25% budget of the peace support operations of the AU.

The 25% budget allocation for peace support operations will finance activities that evolve around mediation and preventive diplomacy; institutional capacity; and peace support operations. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission underscores the critical importance for member states to implement the decision on financing of the Union, noting with regard to the Peace Fund, that "it is crucial to attain the objectives set and to secure sustainable funding for this tool on the basis of the assessed contributions. It is on this condition that we shall be able to ensure African ownership and continental leadership that we are constantly claiming."

> Not to fund our peace efforts in a more substantial way would be tantamount to entrusting others with the essential levers of the continental sovereignty.
>
> **H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.**

The AU's proven ability to act as 'first responder' is a critical element of the evolving international peace and security architecture. In reference to Peace Support Operations, since 2002, the AU and its Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms have demonstrated a clear comparative advantage in missions where offensive operations are needed and the United Nations is unable to deploy; and in situations where the UN Security Council is unable to mobilise the requisite political consensus to initiate action.

The high cost and complexity of AU Peace Support Operations places a premium on greater investment in the component of Mediation, Preventive Diplomacy and Institutional Capacity. The AU has developed significant institutional capacity over the past decade to undertake early warning analysis and conflict prevention buildiong up an impressive toolbox for prevention and peace making. These include the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, Special Envoys, and ad hoc mediation panels, often comprised of sitting and former Heads of State. The AU also has experience in deploying liaison offices and "special political missions" in countries at risk of, or emerging from, conflict.

The urgency of implementing the domestic resource mobilisation decision illustrates the shared African solution towards the realisation of Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063 which underscores the need for dialogue-centered conflict prevention, as well as the management and resolution of existing conflicts, with a view to Silencing the Guns in our continent by 2020.

The Peace Fund, replenished through financial appropriations from the regular AU budget, is also able to accept contributions from other sources within Africa, including the private sector, civil society, donations from individuals, and through appropriate fundraising activities. The Peace Fund has for many years been highly dependent on external partners which has greatly impacted the AU's ability to independently manage its peace and security priorities. The multiplicity of donor financing channels led to fragmentation and high transaction costs related to the numerous reporting requirements.

However, the changing tides in Africa's resolve towards domestic resource mobilisation saw 2017 and 2018 register the highest level of contributions to the

When the endowment reaches its full strength, Africa will be in a strong position to drive the continent's peace and security agenda toward the most appropriate solutions. As you know, Africa is pursuing a resolution at the United Nations Security Council to provide stable funding for African Union peace support operations. The re-launched Peace Fund is a critical piece of that architecture.

H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda speaking at the launch of the African Union Peace Fund in November 2018

peace fund since its establishment in 1993. 50 Member States made their contributions to the Peace Fund amounting to US$ 89 million.
Against a target of US$130 million (US$65 million each for 2017 and 2018), member states have as of February 2019 contributed about US$ 89 million, representing 68% of the funds expected.

At the conception of the Peace Fund, Member States were expected to contribute US$400 million by 2021, gradually from an anticipated amount of US$325 million in 2017.

The AU Peace Fund Board of Trustees
In January 2018, a Board of Trustees made up of five African members representing the 5 AU Regions and two international partners, was established.

The Board members.
- **Zainab Ahmed** (Minister of finance, *Nigeria)*
- **Tito Mboweni** (Minister of Finance, *South Africa*)
- **Anicet Dologuele** (Former Prime Minister, *Central African Republic*)
- **Kamel Morjane** (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, *Tunisia*)
- **Elene Makonnen** (Senior Advisor, multilateral organizations, *Ethiopia*)

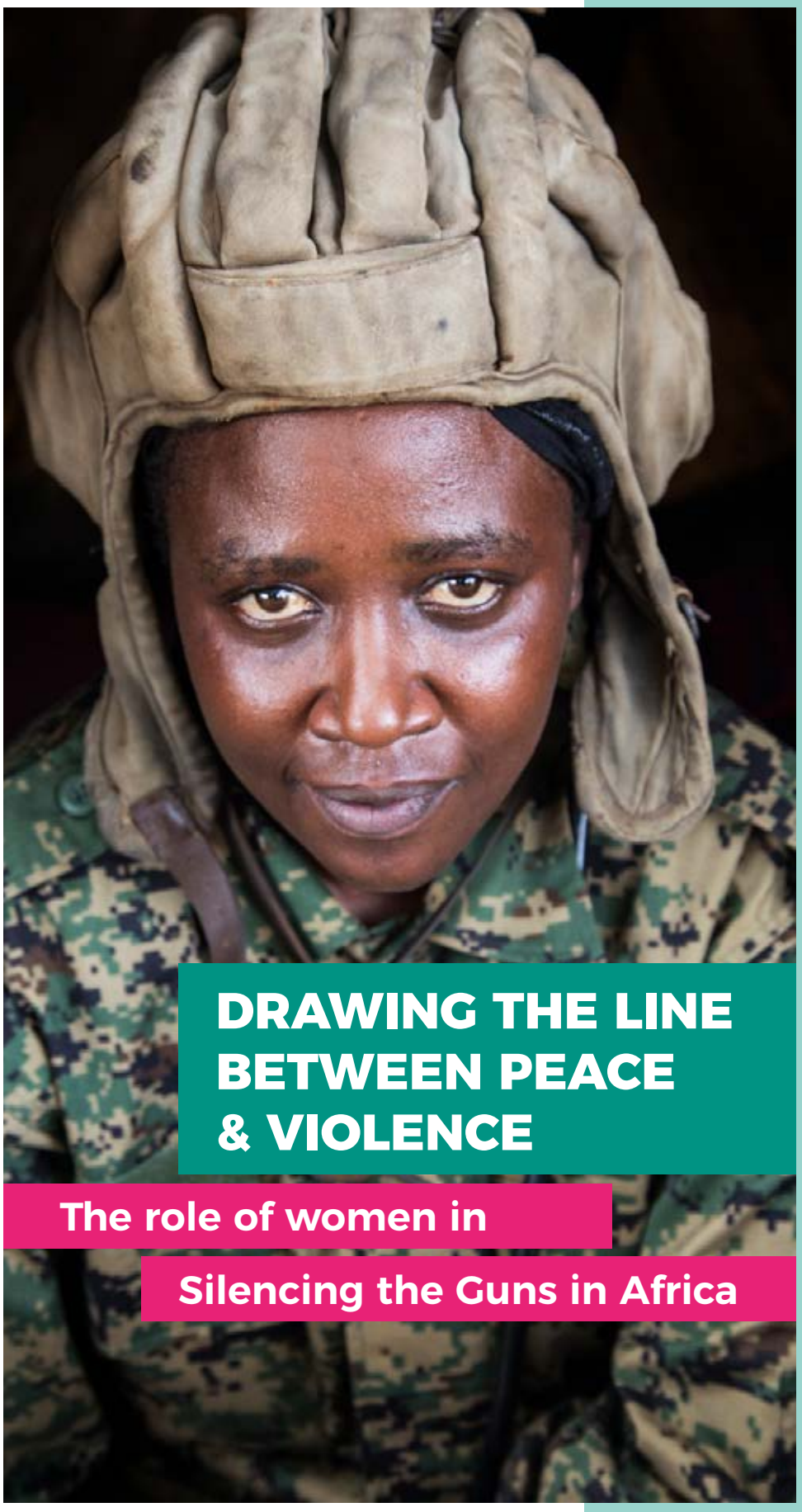
In addition to these African members, the European Union and the United Nations will occupy two seats on the Peace Fund Board that have been allocated for international partners. The role of the Board of Trustees is to ensure strategic coherence and enhanced governance, financial and administrative oversight of the Peace Fund. Additional elements have been factored in the governance and management structure which elaborate on the Independent Evaluation Panel that regularly reviews the effectiveness and impact of the Fund; the Executive Management Committee which provides a strategic management oversight of the Fund; a Fund Manager who manages the finances; and a Peace Fund Secretariat that manages the day to day operations of the Fund.

Dr. Donald Kaberuka and the AU Commission are undertaking regional consultations on the scale of assessment for the Peace Fund and will report back to the Executive Council in July 2019 in Niamey, Niger for the consideration and adoption of the new scale of assessment for the Peace fund. Currently, member states are funding the peace fund on the basis of the existing scale of assessment for the regular budget.

Enhancing multilateralism to Silence the Guns by 2020.
Africa cannot achieve its development agenda in isolation. While AU Member States are primarily responsible for financing the Peace Fund, partnerships will continue to play a vital role in supporting peace and security activities of the African Union. Deepening co-operation with partners, both traditional and emerging ones is therefore imperative. The AU has developed critical partnerships within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) to develop innovative ways to respond to the continent's peace and security challenges. Women and children bear the blunt of humanitarian crisis emanating from conflict and instability and the AU has ensured greater involvement and engagement of women in the conflict resolution for sustainable peace through initiatives such as Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention & Mediation (FemWise).
Overall, peace and security in Africa will only be achieved through effective and committed leadership and greater local and global cooperation. Better coordination and synchronisation of efforts by stakeholders to avoid silo efforts and duplication as well as the threat of reversing the gains accumulated are equally as important.

In 2017 and 2018, member states contributed about US$ 89 million, the highest level of contributions to the peace fund since its establishment in 1993.

AGENDA 2063



DRAWING THE LINE BETWEEN PEACE & VIOLENCE

The role of women in Silencing the Guns in Africa

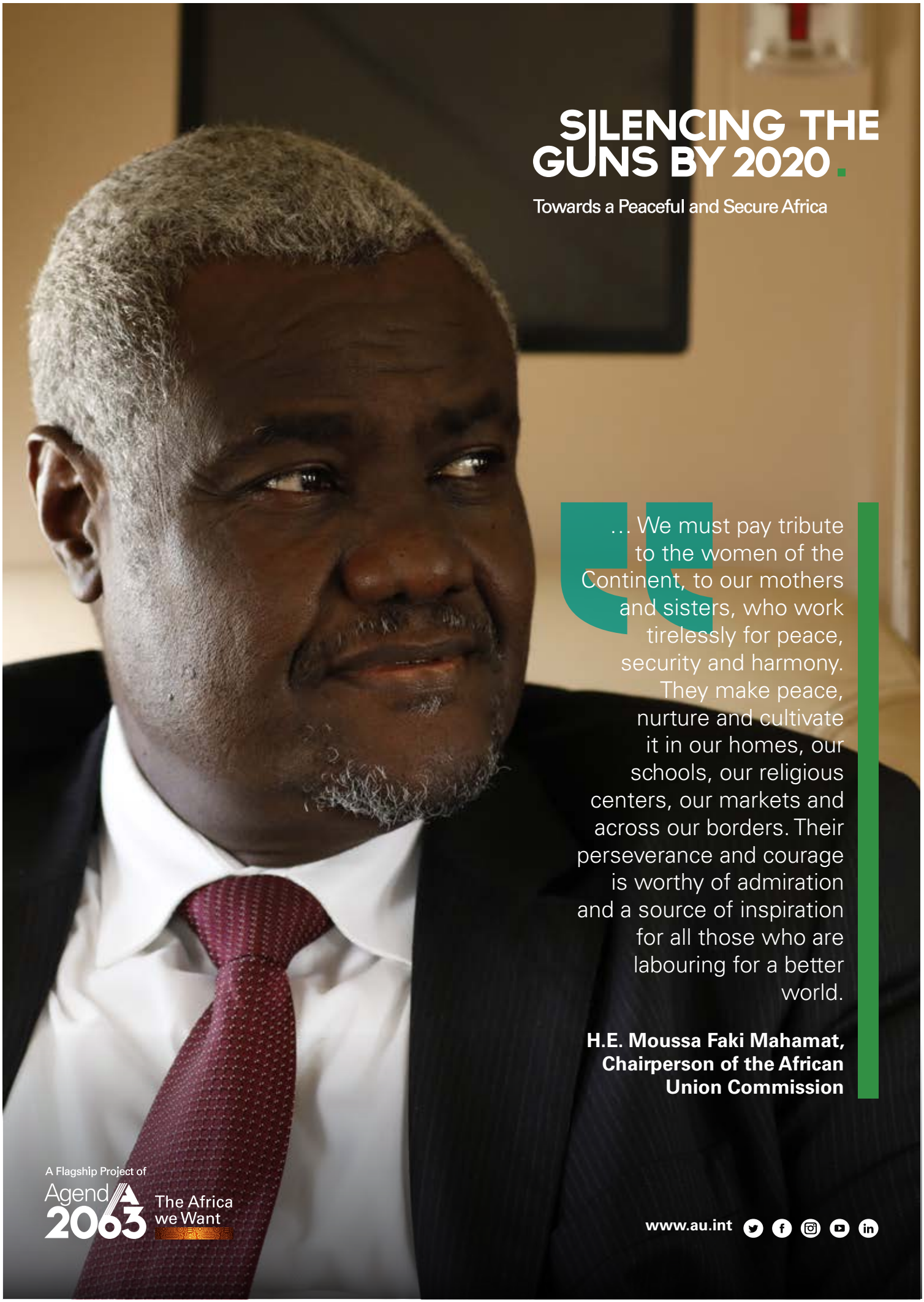
Meet the Tank Girls Taking on al-Shabab: Lt. Cpl. Juliet Uwimana of Amisom in her military uniform

> We have come a long way with respect to the struggle for equal opportunity for women in Africa… A clarion call has been issued to the women of Africa to catalyze the process of silencing the guns by 2020. We have to take the cow by the horns and get on with it

H.E. Dr. Speciosa Wandira-Kazibwe, Chairperson of the Panel of the Wise and Co-Chair of FemWise-Africa

In May 2013, during the OAU/AU 50th Anniversary, the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government pledged not to bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans and undertook to end all wars in the continent by 2020. Since then, progress has been made and concrete steps have been taken to create conditions and upscale the momentum towards achieving the goal of silencing the guns in Africa.

Although significant advances have been made in reducing violent conflicts in Africa, persistent of threats to peace and security in the continent remain. These are attributable, in particular, to election-related crises, the existence of ungoverned spaces which are breeding grounds for illegal activities; the inflow of weapons and their illicit circulation and use in some parts of Africa; illicit financial flows which facilitate illicit weapons and conflicts; corruption and high rates of unemployment, particularly among the youth; illegal exploitation of natural resources which contribute to funding insurgencies and rebellions; the effects of climate change; and slow progress in the ratification of African Union (AU) instruments and policies. These factors present major challenges and •••


SILENCING THE GUNS BY 2020
Towards a Peaceful and Secure Africa
... We must pay tribute to the women of the Continent, to our mothers and sisters, who work tirelessly for peace, security and harmony. They make peace, nurture and cultivate it in our homes, our schools, our religious centers, our markets and across our borders. Their perseverance and courage is worthy of admiration and a source of inspiration for all those who are labouring for a better world.
H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission
A Flagship Project of
Agend A 2063
The Africa we Want
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> …many African countries and regions remain trapped in a vicious cycle of conflict with devastating consequences that undermine the continent's development and integration agenda. The fact that Africa is host to eight United Nations peacekeeping operations, and dominates over 60% of the agenda of the UN Security Council, bear testimony to this reality.
>
> **Amb. Smaïl Chergui, AU Commissioner Peace and Security.**

••• constraints that have slowed down the full realisation of the AU Agenda 2063 flagship project of Silencing the Guns by 2020.

As the 2020 deadline to end wars in Africa approaches, women in the continent have enhanced preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention, as part of the efforts to silence the guns, with a commitment to realizing a conflict-free Continent. The Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation – commonly known as FemWise-Africa – has vigorously mobilized women and girls from all over the continent and the Diaspora and organized them right in the heart of the peace and security architecture, as a subsidiary mechanism of the Panel of the Wise. FemWise-Africa aims to promote and professionalize the role of African women in mediation processes, conflict prevention and peace-making efforts.

The Network provides a platform for strategic advocacy, capacity building and networking aimed at enhancing the implementation of the commitments for women's inclusion in peacemaking in Africa. FemWise-Africa currently hosts a roster of more than 200 Africa women with diverse backgrounds and experiences; what unites them is their commitment to Silencing the Guns by 2020 and beyond. To date, these women have been called upon by the Commission in different capacities, from implementing political accords, to facilitating border related discussions and more.

FemWise-Africa is a clear demonstration of the importance placed on the participation of women and youth in the full cycle of peace processes in the Continent, with a view to ensuring that the needs for women and youth are fully included in the implementation of the AU Master Roadmap for silencing the guns in Africa by 2020.

Despite male dominated interventions, women play crucial roles throughout the conflict cycle – the burden of which disproportionately affects them. To enhance the capacities of women to participate in conflict prevention and mediation efforts at the national, regional and continental levels, FemWise-Africa is working to ensure diverse representation within its roster while expanding the training of more women and girls, and exposing them to continental spectrum of prominent conflict trends, preventive tools, and experiences on the ground at all levels. Through the Network, the number of women deployed on peace-building and solidarity missions have risen.

To enhance peace dividends, the leadership of women in peace and security matters has further been demonstrated in the Network's involvement in addressing the scourge of natural resource-based conflicts across Africa. This reinforces and drives

Dr Speciosa Wandira Kazibwe, *FemWise co chair* **(sitting 4th from left) on a joint AU UN mission to South Sudan with Amb. Smail Chergui,** *Commissioner for Peace and Security* **(2nd from left) and Ms. Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka,** *UN Women Executive Director* **(3rd from left) and Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix,** *Undersecretary - General for Peacekeeping Operations at the UN* **(1st from left)**

further, the debate introduced by the African Union's Panel of the Wise, on improving efforts at prevention and mediation of natural resource-related conflicts in the continent. Interventions around natural resources, environment and climate change provide significant opportunities to empower women politically and economically, and to strengthen their contribution to conflict prevention and peacebuilding within the Human Security context. This is specifically important as women in conflict-affected settings routinely experience physical insecurity, including sexual violence, when carrying out daily tasks linked to the use of natural resources.

FemWise-Africa continues to nurture bridges with the Regional Economic Communities, the Regional Mechanisms and the Alliance of Women Mediators to ensure a more inclusive approach towards peacebuilding and to narrow the gap between the commitments for and actualisation of women's inclusion in peace processes. The Network's contributions to conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy is further recognized in UN Security Council Resolution 2457 (2019).

The call to action is for Member States to redouble their efforts in demonstrating more political and financial commitment to ensure the creation of requisite conditions for African women to play their rightful role in silencing the guns in Africa.

AGENDA 2063

SINGLE AFRICAN AIR TRANSPORT MARKET.

Towards One African sky

29 countries have signed the SAATM Treaty and 1**1 countries** have declared their solemn commitment to the immediate and full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision towards the establishment of a SAATM **(as of December 2018; Benin, Cape Verde, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and Zimbabwe)**

The SAATM aims to ensure intra-regional connectivity between the capital cities of Africa and create a single unified air transport market in Africa, as an impetus to the continent's economic integration and growth agenda. SAATM provides for the full liberalisation of intra-African air transport services in terms of market access, traffic rights for scheduled and freight air services by eligible airlines thereby improving air services connectivity and air carrier efficiencies. It removes restrictions on ownership and provides for the full liberalisation of frequencies, tariffs and capacity. It also provides eligibility criteria for African community carriers, safety and security standards, mechanisms for fair competition and dispute settlement as well as consumer protection.

SAATM along with the Protocol on the Free Movement of People and Goods, the African Passport and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are key to achieving the integration agenda espoused in Aspiration 2 of Agenda 2063,

A Flagship Project of Agend 2063 The Africa we Want

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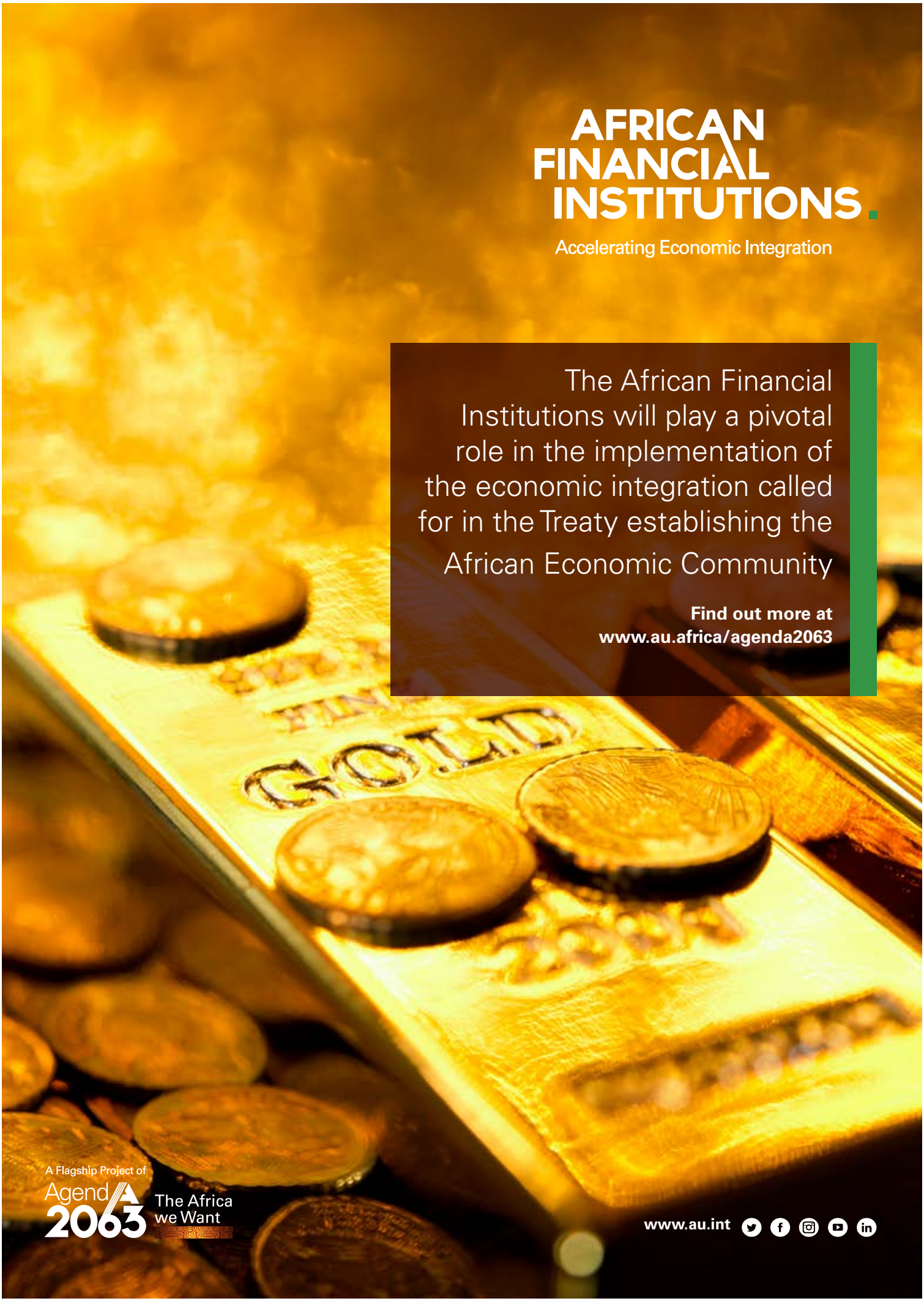
AFRICAN
FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS.
Accelerating Economic Integration
The African Financial Institutions will play a pivotal role in the implementation of the economic integration called for in the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community
Find out more at
www.au.africa/agenda2063
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The Africa we Want
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AGENDA 2063

Aspiration 7 of Africa's Agenda 2063 envisions "Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner" with a significant role in world affairs. To achieve this Aspiration, the Agenda 2063 framework identifies the need for Africa to improve its partnerships and refocus them more strategically to respond to African priorities for growth and transformation; ensure that the continent has the right strategies to finance its own development and reduce aid dependency through the establishment of continental financial institutions.

The creation of Pan-African Financial Institutions (PAFI) aims at accelerating integration and socio-economic development of the continent through the establishment of organisations which will play a pivotal role in the mobilisation of resources and management of the African financial sector. The financial institutions envisaged to promote economic integration are the African Investment Bank (AIB) and Pan African Stock Exchange (PASE); the African Monetary Fund (AMF) and the African Central Bank.

The objectives of the Pan-African financial institutions include:

- Facilitating the mobilisation of domestic and external resources to foster economic development and integration on the continent (AIB and PASE);
- Ensuring the stability of exchange rates between currencies and their mutual convertibility for the establishment of the African Central Bank (ACB);
- Promoting the development of African financial markets (AMF and PASE) and establishing a strong monetary union with a single African currency managed by the African Central Bank (ACB). Progress towards the adoption of a single currency will be monitored by the African Monetary Institute (AMI).
- Promoting African monetary cooperation in order to achieve African economic integration and speed up the economic development process in Member States (AMF / AMI)

African Investment Bank (AIB)

The purpose of the AIB is to foster economic growth and accelerate economic integration in Africa by financing development projects in Africa.

The AIB's objectives will be to:

- Promote public and private sector investment activities intended to advance regional integration of African states
- Utilise available resources for the implementation of investment projects contributing to strengthening of the private sector and modernisation of rural sector activities and infrastructures
- Mobilise resources from capital markets inside and outside Africa for the financing of investment projects in African countries
- Provide technical assistance as may be needed in African countries for the study, preparation, financing and execution of investment projects

As at 31 December 2018, 22 AU Member States had signed the legal instruments of the AIB (Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Congo, DRC, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome & Principe, Togo, Zambia) while 6 had ratified (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Congo, Libya, Togo)

African Monetary Fund (AMF)

The purpose of AMF will be to facilitate the integration of African economies by eliminating trade restrictions, financing deficits, fostering monetary cooperation and integration, and providing technical assistance, particularly for poverty and debt reduction strategies for AU Member States. The Fund is expected to serve as a pool for central bank reserves and AU Member States' national currencies. The Fund will prioritise regional macro-economic objectives in its lending policies.

The AMF objectives will include:

- Providing financial assistance to AU Member States
- Acting as a clearing house as well as undertaking macro-economic surveillance within the continent
- Coordinating the monetary policies of Member States and promoting cooperation between their monetary authorities
- Encouraging capital movements between Member States.

As at 31 December 2017, the texts of the AMF had been signed by 9 countries (Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Sao Tome & Principe and Zambia) and with no ratifications country ratifying the Fund's legal instruments.

On April 6 2018, the African Union Commission signed the Host Agreement of the AMF with the Government of the Republic of Cameroon to start the process of operationalization of the AMF in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

The African Central Bank (ACB)

The ACB's purpose will be to build a common monetary policy and single African currency as a way to accelerate economic integration.

The ACB's objectives will be to:

- Create and manage the continental common currency
- Promote international monetary cooperation through a permanent institution
- Promote exchange rate stability and avoid competitive exchange rates depreciation
- Assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments in respect of current transactions between members and eliminate foreign exchange restrictions that hamper the growth of world trade.

The ACB will be responsible for managing monetary and exchange rate policy in Africa. It will be preceded by the African Monetary Institute (AMI), which will lead the technical, political, statistical, legal and institutional preparatory work for the establishment of the ACB based on a gradual approach. The Fund will lend support to African Union organs and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the implementation of the monetary cooperation programme, working closely with regional monetary institutes and sub-regions to improve macroeconomic convergence and financial integration. In this regard, the African Union and the Association of African Central Banks (AACB) set up a joint committee and drew up a joint strategy for the establishment of the African Central Bank, a strategy in which the African Monetary Institute will play a vital role.

AGENDA 2063

Financing Africa's DEVELOPMENT Agenda through Domestic Resource Mobilisation.

The AU has over the past two years recorded an impressive implementation rate of the 2016 decision on financing of the Union. As of the 20th of December 2018, there were 25 countries, representing about 45% of AU membership, that were at various stages of domesticating the Kigali Decision on Financing the Union.

- Of the 25 countries, 16 countries; Kenya, Gabon, Congo Brazzaville, Cameroun, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Benin, Guinea, Ghana, Sudan, Mali, Gambia and Togo, have adopted the new revenue collection mechanism by imposing the 0.2% levy on eligible imports to meet the financial obligations of the African Union. With the exception of Chad and the Gambia, all the other 14 countries paid their 2018 contributions to the AU, either in full or in part, through the new financing mechanism.

- Six (6) member states are in the process of domesticating the Kigali Decision, the progress update on the status of implementation is yet to be established. These are Nigeria, Comoros, Senegal, Mauritania, Ethiopia and Libya.

The implementation of the Kigali decision calls for the strengthening of the financial and budgetary reforms to ensure financial discipline within the Union to decisively address issues of low execution rates, identify undetected wastages and instances of over-budgeting by departments or organs, as well as ensure full compliance with the African Union's financial rules and regulations. This has led to the realisation of some quick wins as listed below:

i) The AU has adopted new approaches of programme planning and budget process, to ensure greater accountability. This has led to the joint sittings between the Committee of Finance Ministers (F15) technical experts and the Permanent Representatives Committee's sub-committees of General Supervision and Coordination on Budget, Finance and Administrative matters and of Programs and Conferences, to deliberate on the budget prepared by the AU Commission. The Committee of Ministers of Finance has since assumed responsibility for oversight of the African Union budget and Reserve Fund.

ii) Eight of the nine 'Golden Rules' are fully operational. These rules are financial management and accountability principles adopted to ensure financial discipline within the Union, to enable the Union to decisively address issues of low execution rates, identify undetected wastages and instances of over-budgeting by departments or organs, as well as ensure full compliance with the AU financial rules and regulations.

iii) The AU has introduced budget ceilings for departments and organs based on their track record on prudent execution rate, their ability to reach their targets, and aligning their programmes strictly to the priorities of the Union. This has enhanced the budget execution and ensured that the expenditure is linked to results. The ceiling also aligns the budget of the Union with member states' capacity to pay.

iv) The 2019 budget for the Union reflected a significant decrease of 12%, compared to the 2018 budget.

v) The share of AU member states financing the budget has also substantially increased compared to the partner funding in previous years. Excluding the peace support operations, in 2019, member states will contribute 66% of the budget while 34% will be secured from development partners. (Previously up to 70% of the AU budget was funded by development partners)

In November 2018, adopted a new sanctions regime to ensure its 55 member states meet their financial obligations to the AU in time. The new sanctions regime stipulates the short, intermediate and long-term measures that member states will face for defaulting to pay partly or in full, their assessed contributions, within a period of six months to two years. (See https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20181127/african-union-strengthens-its-sanction-regime-non-payment-dues for more information.

The AU has adopted the revised scale of assessment to stipulate the amount each member state will pay to the regular budget for period 2020-2022. The review of the scale of assessment is undertaken every three years to provide a scale that improves the burden sharing of the budget appropriations, guided by the principles of the ability to pay; solidarity; and equitable burden-sharing among members to avoid risk concentration.

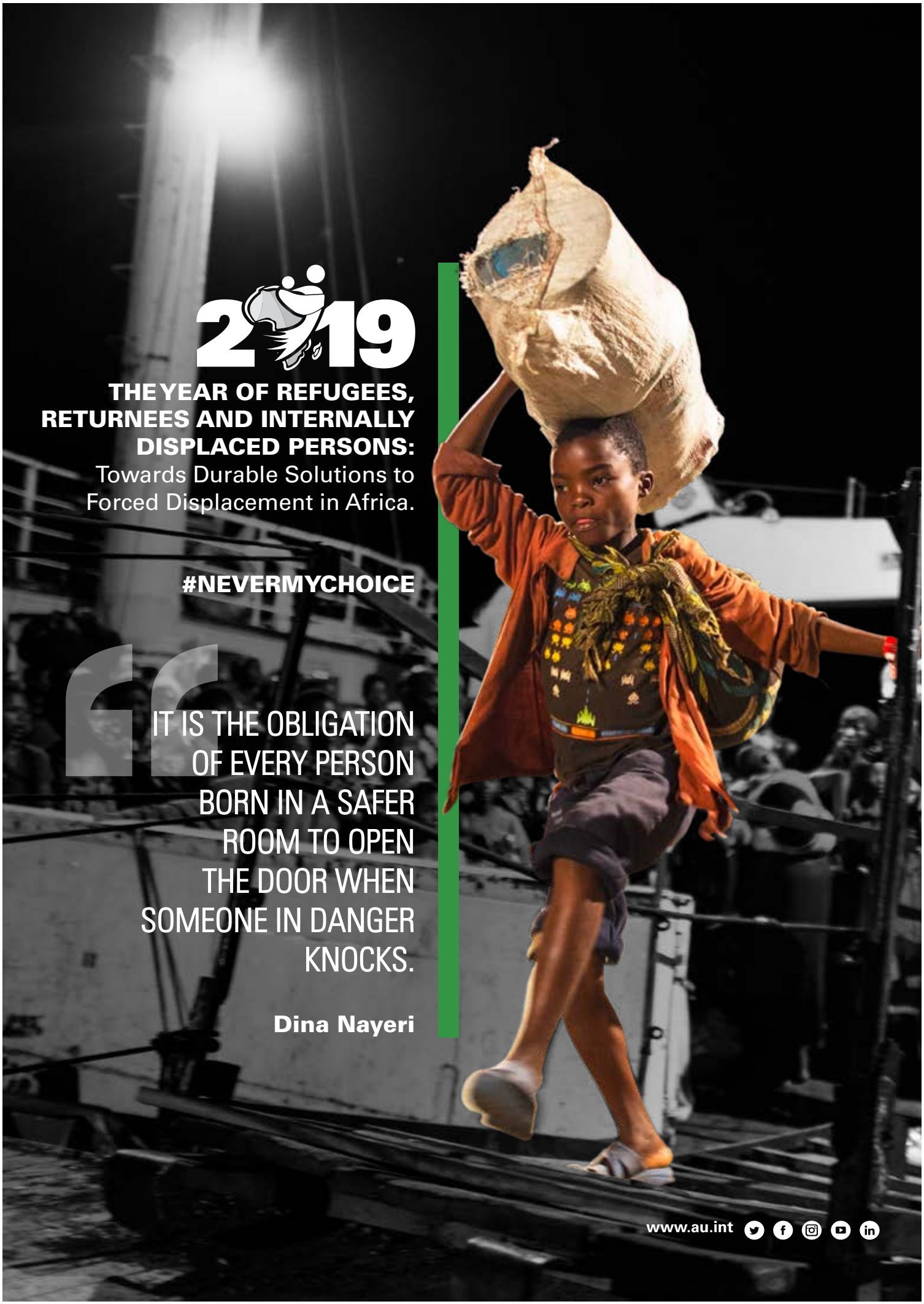
The revised scale of assessment stipulates the percentage of member states contribution to the AU's budget, according to their respective "tier classification";

i) Tier 1 is assessed at 45.151% percent of the Union's assessed budget;

ii) Tier 2 is assessed at 32.749% of the Union's assessed budget; and

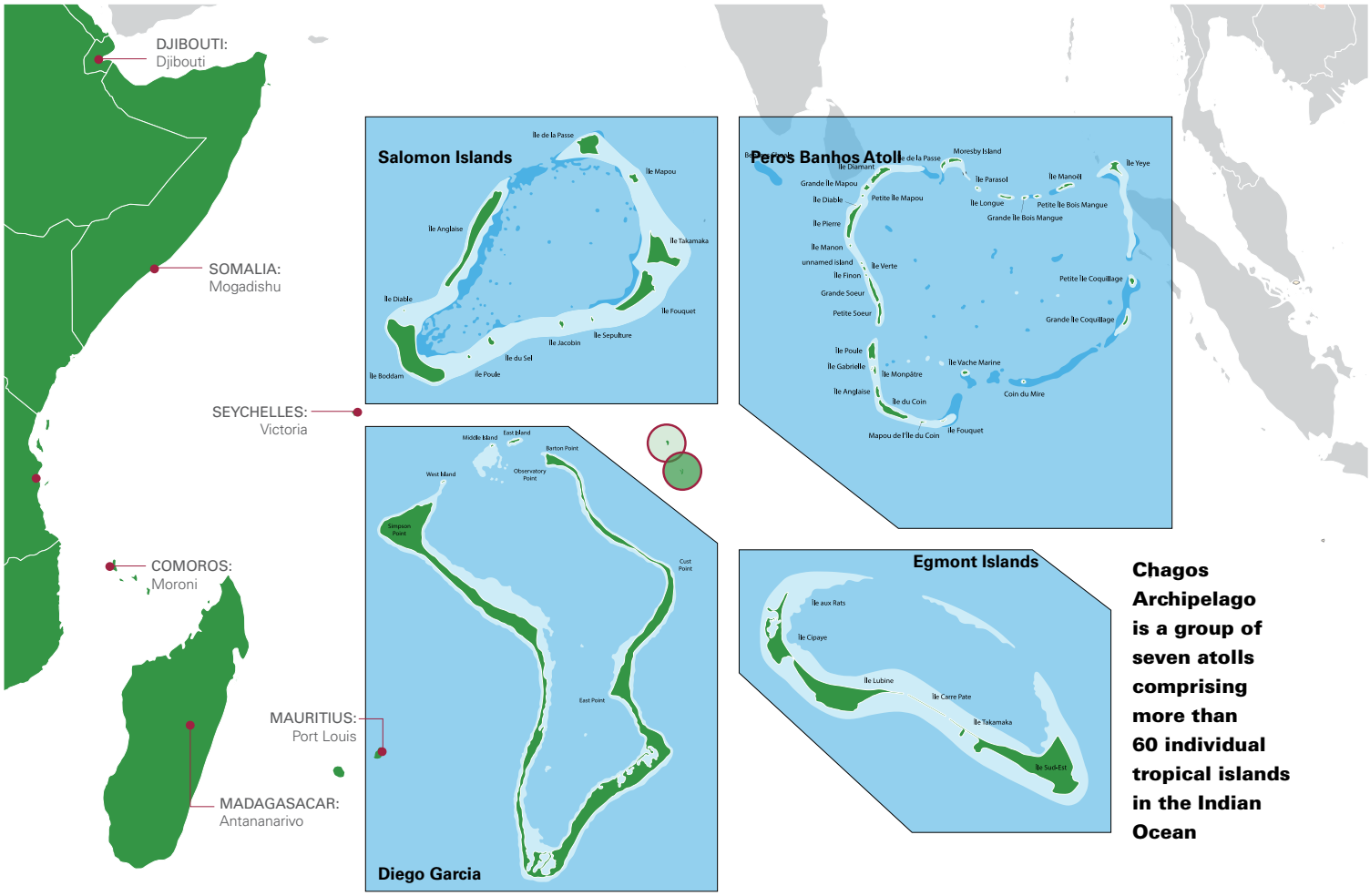
iii) Tier 3 is assessed at 22.100% of the Union's assessed budget.

Each member state shall not pay less than USD350,000 or more than USD35,000,000 as a contribution for the regular budget and peace fund combined. The AU is also reviewing the 2020 regular budget to reduce it by USD32 million.


2019
THE YEAR OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:
Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.
#NEVERMYCHOICE
IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF EVERY PERSON BORN IN A SAFER ROOM TO OPEN THE DOOR WHEN SOMEONE IN DANGER KNOCKS.
Dina Nayeri
www.au.int

AGENDA 2063

CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO



Chagos Archipelago is a group of seven atolls comprising more than 60 individual tropical islands in the Indian Ocean

African efforts to complete the decolonisation of Africa pay off as the ICJ issues an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius

One of the goals of Aspiration 2 of Agenda 2063 is Decolonisation and for Africa to ensure that all remnants of colonialism will have ended and all African territories under occupation fully liberated. The AU Office of the Legal Counsel has been working with various countries to ensure this Agenda 2063 objective is attained and on 25th February 2019 the African Union welcomed the historic Advisory Opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), on the Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965. This Advisory Opinion was delivered in response to a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 22 June 2017, at the initiative of the African Group in New York.

This decision was a milestone for the people and Government of Mauritius in their efforts to complete the decolonisation process of their country. The decision

Advisory states that the United Kingdom is under an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible

by African countries to speak and act as one contributed ensured that Africa as a bloc voted in favour of the United Nations General Assembly resolution and participated in the proceedings before the ICJ in support of the position of Mauritius and the African Union.

The request to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to render an Advisory Opinion:

Through resolution Assembly/AU/Res.1(XXVIII) adopted at its 28th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2017, the Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the African Union (AU) reaffirmed that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, form an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius and that the decolonisation of Mauritius will not be complete until it is able to exercise its full sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. The Assembly resolved to fully support the action initiated by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius at the level

of the United Nations (UN), requesting an Advisory Opinion of the ICJ on the Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius.

Following sustained efforts by the African Group in New York, with the support of other countries, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 71/292 (2017), on 22 June 2017, requesting the ICJ to render an Advisory Opinion on the issue at hand.

Subsequent efforts by the African Union:

After the ICJ Order of 14 July 2017, indicating 30 January 2018 as the time-limit within which statements on the question may be presented to the Court, and 16 April 2018 as the time-limit within which States and organizations having presented written statements may submit comments on the other written statements, the Commission, in December 2017, sent a communication to all AU Member States, urging those of them willing to furnish relevant information on the question before the ICJ to submit written statements to the Court by the end of January 2018, in support of the call for the full decolonization of the territory of Mauritius. The Commission also submitted a request to the Court, seeking permission to make a submission in accordance with Article 66 of the ICJ Statute, and established a team of African lawyers from Egypt and Senegal to assist in preparing its submission.

Subsequently, at the request of the AU, the ICJ extended the deadline for making written submissions on the issue of the completion of the decolonization of Mauritius. The new deadline was set for 1 March 2018.

At its 30th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa in January 2018, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.684(XXX), calling on all Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and all AU partners to make written submissions to the ICJ in support of Mauritius. Given the tight deadline, and in order to ensure a coordinated response, the Commission distributed to Member States a simplified draft statement that could be used for this purpose. It also sent out communications to all RECs and other relevant organizations, to encourage them to submit statements to the ICJ, in order to amplify the position of the AU on this matter.

U.N. General Assembly meeting held in New York on May 22, 2019, at which it adopted a resolution demanding Britain withdraw from the Chagos Islands in the Indian Ocean within six months

The AU Commission made its first written statement on 1 March 2018, along with a number of Member States (Djibouti, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria and Seychelles) and other non-African countries. The second AU written comment was submitted to the ICJ in May 2018. In addition, communications were sent to Member States to encourage them to inform the Registrar of the ICJ of their intention to take part in the hearings on the Legal Consequences of the Separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius.

The Commission, in close collaboration with the Government of Mauritius, engaged Member States to ensure a large African presence as possible at the oral proceedings, which started on 3 September 2018. The ICJ heard pleadings from the Commission and 22 countries, 6 of which were African (Botswana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia). The majority of the 22 States that attended the pleadings opposed the United Kingdom's assertion that it has sovereignty over the Archipelago.

The Commission made its oral pleading on 6 September 2018. The AU legal team stressed that the mandate of the Union in establishing African territorial integrity and self-determination stems from its legal instruments and the AU's contribution to the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly. The AU legal team called upon the ICJ to assume its responsibility as the supreme body for international justice, and affirmed that it represented the collective voice of the African continent.

Celebrating Africa speaking with one voice

In his message relating to the matter, the AUC Chairperson Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat reaffirmed the African Union's determination to pursue and intensity its efforts towards the full decolonisation of Mauritius, in line with international law and urged the United Kingdom to end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as quickly as possible. The Chairperson of the Commission called on all African Union partners to support these efforts, including emphasising the imperative for the scrupulous respect of international legality, as reaffirmed by the ICJ in its Advisory Opinion.

He highlighted three key aspects of the ICJ Advisory Opinion:

1. The process of decolonisation of Mauritius was not lawfully completed when that country acceded to independence in 1968, following the separation of the Chagos Archipelago;

2. The United Kingdom is under an obligation to bring to an end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible; and

3. All Member States are under an obligation to cooperate with the United Nations in order to complete the decolonisation of Mauritius, given that the right for self-determination is an obligation that applies towards all, which all states have a legal interest to protect.

The African Union played a critical political and technical role in the process leading to the Advisory Opinion, building on its longstanding position on the issue of the Chagos Archipelago and relevant decisions of its policy organs. The work by the African Union's Legal Team, made up of the Commission's Office of the Legal Counsel, as well as African counsels and experts who have worked together in this process is highly commendable.

REDEFINING AFRICA'S FUTURE

In ten years, my dream for Africa is to use the e-prescription given to me in Estonia and pick up the medicine anywhere in Africa supported by my Digital Identity,

H.E. Mrs. Kersti Kaljulaid,
President of Estonia

There is huge potential for digital impact in Africa. But to achieve that, the foundations of a digital economy need to be in place - digital infrastructure, literacy and skills, financial services, platforms, digital entrepreneurship and innovation.

Dr. Hafez Ghanem,
World Bank Vice President for Africa

THROUGH DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

The EIB is strengthening its cooperation with African and international partners to support digital transformation and the reduction of the gender digital divide across the continent

Mr. Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank (EIB)

To foster the enabling environment and to harness the full benefits of digital transformation we need to develop a digital strategy and action plan that will serve as a blue-print to transform all sectors of the economy.

H.E Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union

PROMOTING HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS (AFCHPR)

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Court) is a continental court established by African countries to ensure the protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa. It complements and reinforces the functions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

The Court was established by virtue of Article 1 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, (the Protocol) which was adopted by Member States of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in June 1998. The Protocol came into force on 25 January 2004.

Presently 9 of the 30 States Parties to the Protocol have made the declaration recognising the competence of the Court to receive cases from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and individuals. The 9 states are; Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Malawi, Tanzania and Tunisia. The 30 States which have ratified the Protocol are: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Congo, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Libya, Lesotho, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, South Africa, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda.

Mandates and Function of the AfCHPR

The Court has two types of jurisdiction: **Contentious** and **Advisory**.

The AfCHPR) has jurisdiction over all cases and disputes submitted to it concerning the interpretation and application of the:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which is the main human rights instrument in Africa
- The Protocol that established the Court
- Any other relevant human rights instrument ratified by the State Party concerned.

The Court complements and reinforces the functions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Contrary to the Commission, which can only make recommendatory decisions, the Court's decisions are binding and can include orders of compensation or reparation.

Under article 5 of the 1998 Protocol establishing the Court, the Commission, State Parties to the Protocol and African inter-governmental organisations are entitled to submit cases to the Court. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with observer status before the Commission and individuals from State Parties that have made a declaration accepting the jurisdiction of the Court can also institute cases directly in accordance with article 34(6).

In January 2016, the AU Assembly, as part of a decision on streamlining the African Union's working methods, decided to empower individuals to directly petition the Court on the implementation or otherwise of AU policy organ decisions, provided they come from a Member State that is a party to the Protocol establishing the Court and that has accepted the jurisdiction of the Court to receive such cases in conformity with article 34(6) of the Protocol (Assembly/ AU/ Dec.597(XXVI)).

Structure of the AfCHPR

The Court consists of 11 judges elected by the AU Assembly from African jurists nominated by State Parties to the Protocol. The Assembly considers equitable geographical, legal tradition and gender representation. The judges serve in their personal capacities. They are elected by secret ballot for six-year terms, renewable once (with the exception of some of those elected at the first election). No two judges may be of the same nationality. The judges elect a president and vice-president who serve two-year terms, renewable once.

The composition of the Court and election of judges is governed by articles 11 to 15 of the Protocol establishing the Court. The President of the Court works on a full-time basis while the other 10 judges work part time. A registrar assists the President with managerial and administrative work.

Current members of the AfCHPR

1. President Sylvain Oré, Côte d'Ivoire Elected President in September 2016 for a two-year term: first elected as Judge of the Court in July 2010 for a four-year term; re-elected in June 2014 for a six-year term.
2. Vice-President Ben Kioko, Kenya Elected Vice-President in September 2016 for a two-year term; first elected as Judge of the Court in July 2012 for a six-year term
3. Justice Gérard Niyungeko, Burundi Elected in 2006 for a six-year term; re-elected in July 2012 for a six-year term
4. Justice El Hadji Guissé, Senegal Elected in January 2006 for a four-year term; re-elected in July 2012 for a six-year term
5. Justice Solomy Balungi Bossa, Uganda Elected in June 2014 for a six-year term
6. Justice Rafâa Ben Achour, Tunisia Elected in June 2014 for a six-year term
7. Justice Angelo Vasco Matusse, Mozambique Elected in June 2014 for a six-year term
8. Justice Marie-Theresa Mukamulisa, Rwanda Elected in July 2016 for a six-year term
9. Justice Ntyam Ondo Mengue, Cameroon Elected in July 2016 for a six-year term
10. Justice Chafika Bensaoula, Algeria3 Elected in January 2017 for a six-year term

Justice Sylvain Oré (President) of *Côte d'Ivoire*, Justice Ben Kioko (Vice President) of *Kenya*, Lady Justice Stella Isibhakhomen Anukam of *Nigeria*, Lady Justice Bensaoula Chafika of *Algeria* of the African Court interacting

11. Justice Rose Tujilane Chizumila, Malawi Elected in January 2017 for a six-year term

Meetings of the AfCHPR

The Court sits four times a year in two-week ordinary sessions. Extraordinary sessions may also be held.

Merger of the AfCHPR

The AU Assembly decided at its July 2008 Summit to merge the African Court of Justice and Human Rights with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights into an African Court of Justice and Human Rights. Article 28 of the 2008 Protocol provides that the African Court of Justice and Human Rights shall have jurisdiction over all cases and legal disputes that relate to "the interpretation and application of the Constitutive Act, Union treaties and all subsidiary legal instruments, the African Charter and any question of international law". Transition to the new Court will begin after 15 Member States have ratified the 2008 Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights.

PROMOTING HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN & PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights was established in conformity with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Banjul Charter) to promote human and people's rights and ensure their protection throughout Africa. The ACHPR became operational in 1987, and is supported by a secretariat based in Banjul, Gambia

Key functions of the ACHPR

1. Promotion of human and peoples' rights (article 45(1))
2. Protection of human and peoples' rights (article 45(2))
3. Interpretation of the Charter (article 45(3)).

Within the framework of its promotional mandate, the functions of the ACHPR are to collect documents, undertake studies and research on African problems in the field of human and peoples' rights, organise seminars, and consider periodic reports submitted by State Parties under Article 62 of the African Charter. The ACHPR also undertakes fact-finding missions to State Parties on its own initiative or at the request of the AU Policy Organs.

The African Charter provides for a 'communication procedure', under which states organisations and individuals may take a complaint to the Commission alleging that a State Party to the Charter has violated one or more of the rights contained in the Charter. Following consideration of complaints, the Commission can make recommendations to the State Party concerned and to the AU Assembly.

The Commission may use its 'good offices' to secure a settlement at any stage of the proceedings. In emergency situations, where the life of a victim is in imminent danger, the Commission can invoke provisional measures under its Rules of Procedure requesting the state to delay any action pending its final decision on the matter.

Article 62 of the Charter requires each State Party to submit a report every two years on the legislative or other measures taken with a view to giving effect to the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Charter. The Commission then issues concluding observations, which are recommendatory in nature.

The Commission also submits a report of its activities to all AU Assembly ordinary sessions. These reports are considered by the Executive Council on behalf of the Assembly. The Commission may publish information about its protective activities only after the Executive Council and Assembly have adopted the report. (The Executive Council can withhold authorisation for publication of these reports).

Subsidiary Mechanisms of the ACHPR
To facilitate implementation of its mandate, the ACHPR has established special mechanisms to focus on different thematic areas that are of special concern to the ACHPR's work. This strategy enables the ACHPR to have a better understanding of the human rights situation on the continent. ***Since its inception, the ACHPR has established 15 Special Mechanisms:***

1. Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (1999);
2. Special Rapporteur on Prisons and Places of Detention in Africa (1996); revised to Special Rapporteur on Prisons and Places of Detention and Policing in Africa (2015);
3. Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders in Africa (2004);
4. Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa (2004);
5. Special Rapporteur for Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants in Africa (2004);
6. Working Group on Indigenous Populations/ Communities in Africa (2000);
7. Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Africa (2004);
8. Working Group on Specific Issues (2004);
9. Working Group on Death Penalty (2005), revised to Working Group on Death Penalty and Extra-Judicial, Summary or Arbitrary killings in Africa (2012);
10. Working Group on Older Persons and People with Disabilities in Africa (2007);
11. Working Group on Extractive Industries and Human Rights Violations in Africa (2009);
12. Working Group on Communications (2011);
13. Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa, previously Robben Island Guidelines Committee (2004);
14. Committee for the Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV(PLHIV) and those at Risk (2010);
15. Advisory Committee on Budget and Staff Matters (2009).

Members of the ACHPR
The ACHPR is composed of 11 Commissioners elected by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government (HOSG) from a list nominated by State Parties to the African Charter. The Commissioners are elected for a renewable term of 6 years. The ACHPR elects its own bureau, the Chairperson and Deputy-Chairperson, from among the Commissioners for a two-year term.

Current members of the ACHPR are:

- **Chairperson Soyata Maïga**, *Mali*, elected 2007, re-elected in 2013
- **Vice Chairperson Lawrence Murugu Mute**, *Kenya*, elected in 2013
- **Commissioner Maya Sahli-Fadel**, *Algeria*, elected in 2011, re-elected in 2017
- **Commissioner Maria Teresa Manuela**, *Angola*, elected in 2017

- **Commissioner Lucy Asuagbor**, *Cameroon*, elected in 2010, re-elected in 2013
- **Commissioner Rémy Ngoy Lumbu**, *DR Congo*, elected in 2017
- **Commissioner Solomon Ayele Dersso**, *Ethiopia*, elected in 2015
- **Commissioner Yeung Kam John Yeung Sik Yeun**, *Mauritius*, elected in 2007, re-elected in 2013
- **Commissioner Kayitesi Zainabo Sylvie**, *Rwanda*, elected in 2007, re-elected in 2015
- **Commissioner Jamesina Essie L King**, *Sierra Leone*, elected in 2015
- **Commissioner Hatem Essalem**, *Tunisia*, elected in 2017

Meetings of the ACHPR

The Commission holds two ordinary sessions a year, usually for 10 to 15 days each in March/April and October/November. Extraordinary sessions may also be held. The working sessions may be open or closed to the public. The Commission may invite states, national liberation movements, specialised institutions, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or individuals to take part in its sessions. As of May 2017, the Commission had granted affiliate status to 27 NHRIs and observer status to 504 NGOs. Ordinary session agendas are usually drawn up by the Commission's Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau.

Human Rights – Our Collective Responsibility

The ACHPR commits to the principles and values of the African Charter and relies on State Parties and other stakeholders in the effective execution of its mandate, because human rights is our collective responsibility!

Communication decisions, State Party reports and activity reports are available on the ***www.achpr.org****.*

ASSEMBLY DECISIONS

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS OF **THE 32nd ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION -** February 2019

1. THEME OF THE YEAR 2019: THE YEAR OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa

- Appointed **H.E. Theodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**, *President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea* as the AU Champion for the theme of the year 2019
- On the 50th Anniversary of the AU Refugees Convention and 10th Anniversary of the Kampala Convention, called on all Member States to sign, ratify, domesticate and implement the OAU Refugee Convention and the AU Convention on IDPs and other relevant policy frameworks dealing with forced displacement and associated humanitarian crises including the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness;
- Committed to take bold and effective political leadership to resolve conflicts in Africa through adopting policies and strategies that strengthen national systems and structures that prevent conflict and displacement on the continent;
- Support efforts towards the creation of conditions conducive to return, rehabilitation and reintegration as part of durable solutions to forced displacement;
- Committed to develop a clear policy framework to address the challenge of the 712,000 stateless persons hosted in the continent and who that lack any form of legal protection and are often more vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and violations, with their displacement lasting sometimes for several decades without solutions
- Requested the AUC to work with Member States and relevant partners to ensure access to education for refugee children, returnee children, IDP children and stateless children in Africa;
- **Requested the African Union Centre for Girls and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) to:**
  - spearhead the development of a mechanism for regular reporting on the situation of girls and women's education in Member States taking into account their teaching and learning environments, the safety and security of schools and the education systems, and the extent to which refugees are mainstreamed into local education systems;
  - work with relevant partners to develop national gender sensitive comprehensive policies and operational plans that integrate peace education and protection of girls and young women in the education programmes for the displaced populations in Africa.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONTINENTAL OPERATIONAL CENTRE IN KHARTOUM FOR COMBATING IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Endorsed the Executive Council's proposal on the establishment of the Continental Operational Centre in Sudan for combating irregular migration as a specialized technical office of the Union for combating irregular migration with particular focus on human trafficking and migrant smuggling on the continent.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN MIGRATION OBSERVATORY IN MOROCCO

Welcomed the signing, on 10 December 2018 in Marrakech, of the Host Agreement between the Kingdom of Morocco and the African Union Commission on the operationalization of the African Migration Observatory, whose role would be, inter alia, the support of existing continental initiatives on migration, through the collection, exchange, analysis and sharing of data with a view to efficiently address migration challenges

4. RECOGNITION OF THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

- Requested the AU Commission work with well-organised and well-meaning initiatives to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of the Transatlantic Slave Trade in 2019
- Urged all Member States of the Union to consider immigration, economic, cultural and social policies that allow the Africans descended from the victims and survivors of the Transatlantic Slave Trade to reconnect and reengage with their brethren in the African continent.

5. SCALE OF ASSESSMENT FOR THE REGULAR BUDGET AND THE PEACE FUND

Recalling Assembly decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578(XXV) of 2015 which decided that:

- A new scale of assessment be adopted based on the principles of solidarity, equitable payments and capacity to pay in a way that ensures no single country bears a disproportionate share of the budget;
- The scale of assessment would be based on achieving the following targets to be phased over 5 years starting from January 2016:
  - 100% of the Union's Operational budget;
  - 75% of Union's Program budget;
  - 25% of Union's Peace support operations budget.
  - The scale of assessment would be based on a tier system as follows:
  - All countries with a GDP above 4% - tier 1;
  - All countries with a GDP above 1% but below 4% - tier 2;
  - All countries with a GDP of 1% and below – tier 3.

Recalling Assembly decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605(XXVII) of July 2016 which stated that the Peace Fund shall be endowed with an amount of United States Dollars Three Hundred Twenty Five (USD 325) million in 2017, rising to Four Hundred (400) million in 2020. This total amount shall be raised from equal contributions from each of the five (5) AU Regions, as defined in the relevant instrument and Assembly/AU/Dec.635(XXVIII) of January 2017 which stipulated that the current scale of contributions should be revised based on the principles of ability to pay, solidarity, and equitable burden-sharing to avoid risk concentration.

Decided while still maintaining the Tier System as per the Johannesburg Decision of 2015 (Assembly/AU/Dec.578(XXV)) and while taking into account the recommendation of the African Union Ministers of Finance to introduce 'caps' and 'minima', the new scale shall be as follows:

- Tier 1 assessed at 45.151% percent of the Union's assessed budget;
- Tier 2 assessed at 32.749% of the Union's assessed budget;
- Tier 3 assessed at 22.100% of the Union's assessed budget.

Decided that no country shall pay less than $350,000 or more than $35,000,000 as a contribution for the regular budget and peace fund combined; and with a view to addressing the growing burden to Member States, the 2020 regular budget shall be reduced by $32 million as compared to the 2019 regular budget.

On the Peace Fund the Assembly noted that since 2017, 50 Member States have made their contributions to the Peace Fund on the basis of the existing scale of assessment for the regular budget and

Commended Member States for contributing **US$89 Million to the AU Peace Fund** since 2017 which demonstrates a high level of commitment by the Union to fully operationalize the Peace Fund

Decided that in the interim, the existing scale of assessment as applied to the regular budget of the Union shall be applied to the 2017-2019 assessment of the Peace Fund and, in the event that no concrete recommendations emerge from the consultations, the new scale of assessment as applied for the regular budget shall also be applied to the Peace Fund from 2020 - 2022.

6. FINANCING THE UNION

Mandated the Commission to do the following:

- Provide technical support to Member States in accelerating the implementation of the 0.2% levy;
- Facilitate the involvement of the Committee of Fifteen Finance Ministers (F15) in the consideration of the annual audit report of the Union;
- Facilitate a retreat of the F15 to assess mechanisms on its working methods as well as consider modalities on how it can accelerate the implementation of decisions on Financing of the Union;
- Strengthen the Secretariat of the Financing of the Union with a view of providing adequate support to the F15 and Member States.

7. AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA)

- Endorsed the recommendations of African Union Ministers of Trade on:
  - Template on Tariff Liberalization which will be used by Member States in preparing the AfCFTA Schedules of Tariff Concessions; and
  - The designation of Sensitive Products and Exclusion List on the basis of the following criteria: food security, national security, fiscal revenue, livelihood and industrialization.
- Agreed that the percentage for Sensitive Products to be 7% of total tariff lines and the Exclusion List not to exceed 3% of total tariff lines and FURTHER AGREES that the application of these percentages be subjected to double qualification and anti-concentration clauses where the excluded products shall not exceed 10% of total import value from other State Parties. In other words, products to be excluded from liberalization will represent no more than 3 percent of tariff lines accounting for no more than 10 percent of the value of imports from other African countries
- Endorsed recommendation by AU Ministers of Trade that a transitional period of 5 years or less be used for countries which require this flexibility before the start of liberalization of Sensitive Products
- Decided that Member States wishing to enter into partnerships with third parties should inform the Assembly with assurance that those efforts will not undermine the African Union vision of creating one African market
- Requested the AU Commission, with the assistance of technical partners, to undertake an assessment of the requirements for the establishment of a future common market including steps to be taken as well as their implications and challenges, for consideration by the African Union Ministers of Trade.
- Requested the African Union Ministers responsible for trade to submit the Schedules of Tariff Concessions, and Schedules of Specific Commitments on Trade in Services in line with agreed modalities to the July 2019 and January 2020 Sessions of the Assembly, respectively, for adoption; and conclude the negotiations on Investment, Competition Policy and Intellectual Property Rights, and submit the draft legal texts to the January 2021 Session of the Assembly for adoption through the Specialised Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

8. INSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF THE AFRICAN UNION

Delegated to the Executive Council its authority to consider and approve the Statute and Rules of Procedure of the Governance Structures of the African Union Development Agency, AUDA NEPAD, during its 35th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in Niamey, Niger, June/July 2019

9. ON MATTERS RELATED TO PROMOTING HEALTH ON THE CONTINENT

a) HEALTH FINANCING

- Appointed **H.E. Paul Kagame** as Champion for Domestic Health Financing
- Re-affirmed its commitment to increase domestic health resource mobilisation and progressive taxation; and called upon the private sector to support and invest in expanding access to quality health care services, achieving universal health coverage, and ensuring the heath security of the continent;
- **Agreed to undertake the following:**
  - Increase domestic investment in health, improve health financing systems and further expand efforts to increase prioritisation and efficiency in a context-appropriate manner so that each country can pursue its own

path to achieving and sustaining universal health coverage and that the people of the African continent can receive the quality, accessible and affordable prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care services they need without suffering financial hardships;

- Mobilise sufficient and sustainable financing to strengthen health systems, especially primary health care and national public health institutions, and achieve universal health coverage;
- Foster greater cooperation between the public and private sectors to create synergies for delivering sustainable, effective, efficient and equitable health for all and safeguard the health security of the people;
- Called upon Member States to and partners to fully implement the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa Business Plan and Regulatory Harmonisation for increased access to affordable and quality assured medicines, vaccines and new health technologies including generics as well as negotiating for affordable prices for vaccines and medicines for priority diseases;
- Call upon Member States to strengthen public financial management (PFM) capacity to help improve tax collection and/or increase the proportion of tax revenue collected as a percentage of GDP, through equitable and efficient general taxation and improved revenue collection, and to strengthen the capacities of ministries of finance and tax revenue authorities to achieve this;
- Call upon Member States to reorient health spending and health systems to target the diseases and conditions across the lifecycle that have the greatest impact on mortality and human capital development with the mix of interventions that will deliver the greatest impact in combatting them;
- Enhance national health financing systems, including exploring options to reduce fragmentation, exploring national health insurance (where appropriate), strengthening capacities to purchase services effectively and increasing efforts to improve prevention, cost-effectiveness and allocative efficiency. Member States should also foster greater coordination with multilateral and bilateral partners, including the African Development Bank, Gavi- the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and the Global Financing Facility;

b) MALARIA ALLIANCE,

- Requested Member States with the support of the AUC, RBM Partnership to End Malaria, ALMA and partners to work towards an enabling environment and ensure the availability of affordable, effective, safe, next-generation malaria commodities through regulatory harmonization and support for local production including innovative initiatives to increase availability and scalability
- Requested Member States to fully utilize the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and subsequent Declarations and articles to promote access to medicines for all;

c) ADOPTION OF HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES APPROACH

Committed to support and enhance the reform of the health sector in the African countries through adopting the Health in All Policies approach in order to progress towards achieving Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goals in Africa

10. GALVANISING POLITICAL COMMITMENT TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN AFRICA

- Decided to designate **H.E Roch Marc Christian Kaboré**, *President of Faso*, as the African Union Champion for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation
- Noted with Concern the high rates of female genital mutilation in Africa, where 50 million girls will be at risk of undergoing this injurious, harmful practice by 2030, the human rights violation perpetuated and the lifelong health complications resulting from the practice and affecting the maternal health outcomes on the continent;
- Endorsed the continental initiative led by the Commission to be known as Saleema: African Union Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation and called on Member States to implement the African Union Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation, with a focus on ending medicalization and addressing cross border practice of female genital mutilation, in addition to implementing strong legislative frameworks, allocating domestic financial resources, promoting use of evidence and data, regular reporting, and the engagement of civil society and community groups in ending female genital mutilation
- Requested the Commission to put in place an accountability framework to hold Member States to account and monitor progress at the regional and national level in line with commitments made

11. ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE

- Reaffirmed its commitment towards the Implementation of the Common African Position on Ending Child Marriage in Africa and recommendations from the first African Girls Summit held in Lusaka, Zambia in November 2015 and all the recommendations from the 2nd African Girls Summit on Ending Child Marriage held in Accra Ghana in November 2018;
- Decided to take concrete actions to end child marriage in all its forms and manifestations, with firm commitment to article 21(2) of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and to have comprehensive report on the progress of Ending Child Marriage in Africa through the reporting channel to the Policy Organs.

12. REPORTS ON PEACE AND SECURITY

- Requested the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite efforts aimed at convening in Addis Ababa, in 2019, an international conference on reconciliation in Libya under the auspices of the AU and UN.
- Reaffirmed its commitment to peace and stability in The Comoros.
- Commended the Federal Government of Somalia for the continued progress made in implementing the Somali Transition Plan (STP).
- Commended the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for its critical role in degrading the capacities of Al-Shabaab and other terrorist groups in Somalia, as well as in the implementation of the STP.
- Paid tribute to the AMISOM Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs), for the immense sacrifices made in the promotion of peace, security, stability and reconciliation in Somalia.
- Commended the South Sudanese stakeholders for the leadership demonstrated since the signing of the R-ARCSS and called on the opposition groups that have not yet done so to join the Agreement without any preconditions.
- Commended the Presidents of Djibouti and Eritrea for their efforts and commitments to normalize the relations between the two countries, in the framework of relevant PSC Communiqués and UN Resolution 2446 (2018).
- Welcomed the peaceful organisation of the elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and commended the people and the leadership of the DRC for a landmark peaceful transition.
- Encouraged all Congolese stakeholders to uphold their country's supreme interests above all other considerations and work together.
- Welcomed the signing on 6 February 2019 of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic between the Government and the armed groups of the Central African Republic, under the auspices of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the CAR.
- Urged all CAR stakeholders to place the interests of their country above all other consideration and uphold their commitment and work together, in good faith, in the implementation of the agreement.
- Congratulated the Government of Burundi on initiating the preparatory process for the elections, especially the establishment, on 31 August 2018 of an Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), according to the Burundian Electoral Code, as well as a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), in line with the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, signed on 28 August 2000. In this regard, the Assembly, welcomed the statement made by President Pierre Nkurunziza not to stand as candidate for the presidential election in 2020, and urged the Government and the political parties to work together for the smooth conduct of the next elections.
- Took note of continued efforts by the countries of the Lake Chad Basin to neutralize the Boko Haram terrorist group, through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and called on the Commission to continue and intensify AU's support to the countries of the region in their fight against Boko Haram.
- Reaffirmed its determination to reinforce efforts towards better and more effective conflict prevention action in Africa. In this respect, the Assembly ENCOURAGES Member States to take full advantage of the structural conflict prevention tools developed by the Commission, including the Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) and the Country Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy (CSVMS), and to enhance the capacities of youth to meaningfully participate in peace and security issues at the national, regional and continental levels.
- Expressed deep concern at the increasing terrorist attacks in parts of the continent and reiterated its condemnation of all acts of terrorism committed on the continent by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes and also reiterated the AU's determination to rid Africa of the scourge of terrorism and violent extremism, which cannot be justified under any circumstances.
- Reiterated its appeal to all Member States to volunteer resources to the AU Special Fund for prevention and Combating of Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa in line with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.6140(XXVII), adopted at its 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly held in Kigali, Rwanda, in July 2016.

13. DEBT CANCELLATION AS A MEANS TOWARDS ENHANCING PEACE, SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR DISPLACED SOMALIS

- Recognized that in re-emerging from decades of conflict, the Federal Republic of Somalia must undertake the immense task of reconstruction and development to establish the foundations of lasting peace and stability, thereby establishing favourable conditions for investment and employment creation
- Urged Somalia's external creditors, especially the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) that have pledged financial support, to step up their good faith efforts and accelerate: the normalization of financial relations with Somalia in fulfilment of their promises; the unlocking of development resources for the country, and the full resolution of the external debt overhang;

Aware that a number of AU Member States are among Somalia's external creditors, the Assembly:

- Called upon them to fully cancel Somalia's debt obligations in the spirit of African solidarity, and requested that the Commission facilitate debt cancellation discussions between Somalia and AU Member State creditors, and also called upon the latter to provide additional economic support to Somalia
- Further called upon Somalia's external creditors to fully cancel Somalia's debt obligations as a means of relieving the country of a future debt servicing burden that may hinder its transition from conflict to peace and sustainable development.

14. REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON LIBYA

- Reiterated the need for Africa to speak with one voice on the Libyan issue and to improve synergy of action and joint efforts between the African Union and the United Nations on the initiatives to be taken to reach a final settlement;
- Requested the Commission to take the necessary measures, jointly with the United Nations, with a view to organizing during the first half of July 2019, the Inclusive Libyan National Peace and Reconciliation Forum;
- Also requested the Commission to take, jointly with the United Nations and the Libyan Government, all the necessary measures for the organization of presidential and legislative elections in October 2019.

15. REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

- Welcomed the growing acceptance of the legitimacy of the Common African Position on the reform of the United Nations Security Council; in particular, the full endorsement for the Common African Position as espoused in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration by a number of Interest Groups and Member States from across all regions during the Intergovernmental Negotiations at the United Nations in 2018.
- Reiterated need to reform the United Nations to conform to the present geopolitical realities, in particular, the need to address Africa's non-representation in the Permanent category and its under-representation in the Non-permanent category of the United Nations Security Council. Further reiterated that full representation of Africa in the United Nations Security Council means:
  - **i)** Two (02) Permanent seats with all the prerogatives and privileges of Permanent membership including the right of veto;
  - **ii)** Five (05) Non-permanent seats;
  - **iii)** That the African Union reserves the right to select its representatives for election to the UN Security Council to act in its name and on its behalf;

16. POST - 2020 PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION

Recalled the decision which stressed the need to ensure that Africa speaks with one voice in the various platforms of partnership with the EU, and requested the Commission to ensure cohesion between the Post-Cotonou Agreement and the Post-2020 Continent-to-Continent Partnership, so that continental priorities, as articulated in Agenda 2063 and other related instruments, are consistently reflected in both tracks.

17. STATE OF GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA

- Welcomed the Africa Governance Report developed by the APRM and urged the Member States to consider the recommendations contained in the Report with a view to enhancing good governance and sharing best practices at both country and continental levels
- Urged the Member States to develop national governance reports as a self-assessment tool for promoting good governance in line with the recommendations of the Report

18. REPORT OF THE 28TH SUMMIT OF THE FORUM OF THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM

- Decided that the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) shall be an Organ of the Africa Union in line with Article 5 (2) of the Constitutive Act;
- Welcomed the Africa Governance Report, urged Member States to consider the recommendations contained in the Report with a view to enhancing good governance and sharing best practices at both country and continental levels and to develop national governance reports as a self-assessment tool for promoting good governance in line with the recommendations of the Report
- Decided that the Africa Governance Report be developed by APRM, in collaboration with AGA, and presented every two (2) years for consideration by the Assembly at its Ordinary Sessions.

19. KATOWICE CLIMATE CONFERENCE (UNFCCC COP 24) AND AFRICA'S ENGAGEMENTS AT THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE AT COP25/CMP 15

- Urged parties to the Paris Agreement to recognize the special circumstances and needs of African countries, in line with the relevant and previous decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and called upon the incoming presidency of the Conference of the Parties to continue with the consultations, with a view to reaching a decision in that regard by the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties, and requested the AGN to continue pursuing the issue
- Urged developed countries to continue to scale up mobilized climate finance towards achieving the 2020 finance goal through private and public funds to deliver on the US$100 billion annually, building on the needs of developing countries and enhancing the country ownership of developing countries, and further enhance the provisions of predictable and sustainable finance building on the floor of the 100 billion USD annually
- Encouraged African countries to ratify the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal protocol as a vehicle to strengthen efforts to tackle climate change.

20. DRAFT LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

The Assembly adopted the Legal Instruments as follows:

i. Draft Treaty for the Establishment of the African Medicines Agency;

ii. Draft Statute of the African Audio Visual and Cinema Commission;

iii. Draft Statutes of the African Union International Centre for Girls' and

iv. Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA);

v. Draft African Union Transitional Justice Policy;

vi. Amendment to Article 35 of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance.

21. HIGH-LEVEL PANEL'S REPORT FOR ASSESSING CANDIDATE COUNTRIES TO HOST THE AFRICAN SPACE AGENCY

Decided that the African Space Agency will be hosted by the *Arab Republic of Egypt*;

22. ELECTION OF THE BUREAU OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION FOR 2019

Assembly elected the Bureau of the Assembly of the Union for 2019 as follows:

- **Chairperson:** *Arab Republic of Egypt;*
- **1st Vice-Chairperson:** *Republic of South Africa;*
- **2nd Vice-Chairperson:** *Democratic Republic of Congo;*
- **3rd Vice-Chairperson:** *Republic of Niger*;
- **Rapporteur:** *Republic of Rwanda*

23. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE AFRICAN UNION FOR 2020

Assembly decided that the Chair of the African Union for 2020 will be the Republic of South Africa.

24. APPOINTMENTS

The Assembly made the following appointments

- One (1) member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the child (ACERWC) - **Ms Hermine Kembo Takam Gatsing***; Cameroon* as a member for a term of five (5) years:
- One (1) member of The African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL) – **Ms. Tomassa Bisia Ela Nchama;** *Equatorial Guinea* for a term of five years.

- Five (5) members of The Peace And Security Council of The African Union for term of three (3) years:
  - Algeria Northern
  - Burundi Central
  - Kenya Eastern
  - Lesotho Southern
  - Nigeria Western

Six (6) members of The African Union Advisory Board on Corruption for a term of two (2) years:

- **Jean Louis Andriamifidy;** *Madagascar* (Eastern)
- **Pascal Bamouni;** *Burkina Faso* (Western)
- **Miarom Begoto;** *Chad* (Central)
- **Elisabeth Afiavi Gnansounou Fourn;** *Benin* (Western)
- **Agness Kayobo Ng'andu;** *Zambia* (Southern)
- **Sefako Aaron Seema;** *Lesotho* (Southern)

25. DATES AND VENUE OF THE THIRTY-THIRD (33RD) ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN JANUARY 2020

Decided that the dates of the Thirty-Third (33rd) Ordinary Session of the Assembly which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia shall be the following:

- **Thirty-Ninth (39th) Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC):** 13th to 14th January 2020;
- **Thirty-Sixth (36th) Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:** 27th to 28th January 2020;
- **Thirty-Third (33rd) Ordinary Session of the Assembly:** 30th and 31th January 2020.

The Assembly also adopted a number of declarations, resolutions and one motion. Details of these as well as the full decisions will be available soon on the African Union website.

PROMOTING HEALTH IN AFRICA

AFRICA CDC LEADING EFFORTS IN THE DRC TO FIGHT EBOLA

> The African Union learnt major lessons from the Ebola outbreak in three West African countries in 2014. When the current outbreak happened in DRC, the Africa CDC responded immediately and mobilised Congolese volunteers whom we had trained and deployed them quickly to the affected areas.
>
> **H.E. Amira Elfadil Mohamed Elfadil, African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs.**

Since the 10th Ebola outbreak was declared in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) during the first week of August 2018, several partners have been working together to support the country's Ministry of Public Health in curtailing its spread in the two affected regions of North Kivu and Ituri. It has been a race against time as they try to avoid the kind of devastation experienced in West Africa in 2014-2016. Relying on available resources while mobilising sources, the African Union, through the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), rapidly deployed a team of experts to the field to support response efforts.

The Africa CDC team of 48 multi-disciplinary consisting of epidemiologists, laboratory experts, communication specialists, anthropologists and logisticians was deployed immediately following the outbreak and these experts have continued to support investigation of alerts including laboratory testing and diagnosis, active case finding, contact tracing and follow-up, infection prevention and control (IPC), risk communication, public communication, logistics, community-based surveillance, and training of local healthcare workers. They organise routine visits to health facilities to ensure compliance to infection prevention and control guidelines.

- **48 multidisciplinary experts**
- **470 healthcare workers and community leaders trained**
- **6 GenXpert machines with 3000 testing cartridges provided for laboratory diagnosis, and infection prevention**
- **13 health facilities received supplies**
- **350 healthcare workers trained on cross border screening**
- **250 community awareness, education and sensitisation sessions**

Recognizing the critical need for laboratory testing and diagnosis in such an outbreak, the Africa CDC strengthened its laboratory capacity in DRC. A total of six GenXpert machines with 3000 testing cartridges were provided for laboratory diagnosis, and infection prevention supplies were distributed to 13 health facilities in the affected areas.

"Essentially the fundamentals to fight a new Ebola outbreak is to do the diagnostics properly and conduct the right interventions, which include isolating the patients, identifying their contacts and making sure they are vaccinated," said Dr Nkengasong.

Because healthcare workers are often the first to encounter infected patients during an outbreak, the Africa CDC in collaboration with the Word Health Organisation (WHO), supported vaccination of these workers to ensure that they are protected from infection. Africa CDC has trained local healthcare workers on Ebola standard precautions, case definition, hygiene and sanitation, and the technical skills needed to handle Ebola patients safely. Presently, more than 470 healthcare workers and community leaders have been trained on infection prevention, and more than 350 have been trained on cross-border screening. The response team has conducted decontamination and briefing sessions in 15 health facilities to prevent infections among healthcare workers.

Previous Ebola outbreaks in the DRC have been easier to contain because they occurred in remote areas; however, the current outbreak has been different and challenging because it occurs also in big cities like Butembo, Beni and Bunia. Rumours and misinformation, which have resulted in community resistance, as well as conflicts in affected communities,

There are two factors complicating the outbreak and prolonging the struggle to contain Ebola in the DRC: conflict, which makes it difficult to ensure contact tracing and adequate deployment of vaccination; community resistance or inadequate cooperation. This has meant extensive engagement with the communities and deployment of our social scientists along with the medical team.

Dr Nkengasong, Director Africa CDC.

have contributed to limitations in response efforts and prolonged the battle against the disease.

By the end of March 2019, the African Union supported response team had held more than 250 community awareness, education and sensitization sessions to provide accurate and timely information about the outbreak and dispel rumours. This has helped change behaviour to some extent and to gain the support of religious and community leaders.

Given that the area is a conflict zone and there are cultural issues the AU works to resolve the cultural issues by having anthropologists and risk communication experts in the team who liaise with the people at the community level to make them understand what Ebola is and how to avoid being infected.

The support by the AU to the Government of the DRC is helping to curtail further spread of the disease. Although the outbreak is not yet over, the AU is committed to seeing it end as quickly as possible.

As aptly stated by Dr Nkengasong, *"African Union, is committed to supporting the Government of DRC until the epidemic comes to an end. If you combine the whole population of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, it's not up to half the population of DRC; we're talking about more than 80 million people, so we cannot fathom the idea of leaving Ebola to become endemic in DRC because the consequences would be too much for the continent and the whole world to bear,"*

Africa CDC Dr Karl Mabundi decontaminating a health center in Vitsundo

Top Most: AfricaCDC health workers navigating rough terrain to reach communities

Our team has been in the field for more than eight months, working day and night to curtail the outbreak, and we're planning a reinforcement. It's really exhausting work, the laboratory experts sometimes have to run as many as 65 tests per day individually. African Union has expended close to US$ 4 million to support response since the outbreak started and we're still in the field until it ends. Dr Nkengasong, Director Africa CDC

Dr Benjamin Djoudalbaye, Head of Policy and Health Diplomacy Division at Africa CDC.

PROMOTING HEALTH IN AFRICA

HEALTH FINANCING IN AFRICA

Bill Gates; *Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation* **speaking at the African Leadership Investing in Health meeting in Addis Ababa in February 2019**

Universal health care is vital to making sure Africa meets the goals set out in the continent's Agenda 2063 goals as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Africa's progress in improving health outcomes has been significant. Life expectancy has increased, deaths from infectious diseases like malaria have halved in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the mortality rates of children under 5 years of age has seen an increased rate of reduction.

In spite of the progress made, challenges remain with significant population segments still lacking access to essential health services, as well as deaths from commonly preventable diseases.

US$ 200 Million pledged to help end epidemics & bring universal health coverage

These challenges are exacerbated by the low investment in health financing which constrains effective health service delivery. According to the "Healthcare and Economic Growth in Africa" report of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Africa has a health financing gap of at least USD 66 billion annually . Moreover, only three African Union (AU) Member States dedicate 15% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to health, as set out in the Abuja Declarations. Between 2015-16, 30 Member States increased the percentage of government budget invested in health, while 21 decreased their investment.

Health Financing is one of the most crucial pillars of building viable health systems and an important measure for improving equitable access to health services and reducing poverty as indicated in the African Union's Africa Health Strategy (2016 – 2030). The strategy urges Member States to develop options for sustainable domestic financing for the health sector and increase per capita government health expenditure in line with the Abuja call and World Health Organization (WHO) commitments. The strategy emphasises the need for countries to strengthen and operationalise their national health accounts, to ensure that allocations and health expenditures are well monitored.

Against this backdrop, the African Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Health and Finance, business leaders and global partners gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in the Africa Leadership Meeting: Investing in Health in February 2019, ahead of the 32nd Summit of the AU, to launch a new initiative aimed at increasing commitments for health, improving the rate of spending on health and ensuring the achievement of universal health coverage across Africa's 55 countries and how to improve health care in Africa through public-private partnerships (PPPs).

The goal of the meeting was to secure alignment on ensuring Africans attain full, healthier lives for all through:

- Sufficient, sustainable and efficient financing through increased domestic investments, contributions from the private sector and global partners, and improved access to health financing mechanisms, as well as ensuring current funds are being used in the most efficient and equitable way.
- Strengthening health systems, especially primary health care and national public health institutions, and achieving universal health coverage
- Cooperation for increased impact by aligning approaches and sharing best practices between the public and private sectors and development partners, to ensure that the strategies in place are diversified, balanced, efficient and sustainable.
- Tracking and reporting on progress to secure continued global, continental and national efforts and keep health financing high on the agenda.

From Left to right: António Guterres; *United Nations Secretary-General*, **H.E. Amira Elfadil Mohamed Elfadil;** *AUC Commissioner for Social Affairs*, **H.E Moussa Fakhi;** *AUC Chairperson*, **H.E. Paul Kagame;** *President of Rwanda*, **H.E. Mrs. Sahle-Work Zewde;** *President of Ethiopia*

The meeting pledged up to USD 200 million to help end epidemics and bring universal health coverage to all. African leaders urged countries to increase efficiency in their health sectors specifically implementing more effective tax regimes to discourage the consumption of products harmful to health as well as explore non-traditional financing sources such as development impact bonds and other avenues to improve revenue collection systems as improvements in these areas have the potential to raise an additional US$200 billion annually.

Support for improving the health sector and its financing was received from various countries and development partners who attended the meeting including the Gates Foundation, the Higherlife Foundation, the Government of Ireland and Government of France which committed to increased financing of health in Africa, with the Government of Japan tabling universal health coverage as an agenda item at the G20 Osaka Summit which will be held from June 28 to 29, 2019 in Japan.

Return on investment from increased and improved health financing is 9-20 times the level of investment; $30 per person can generate $100bn in economic gains five years later.

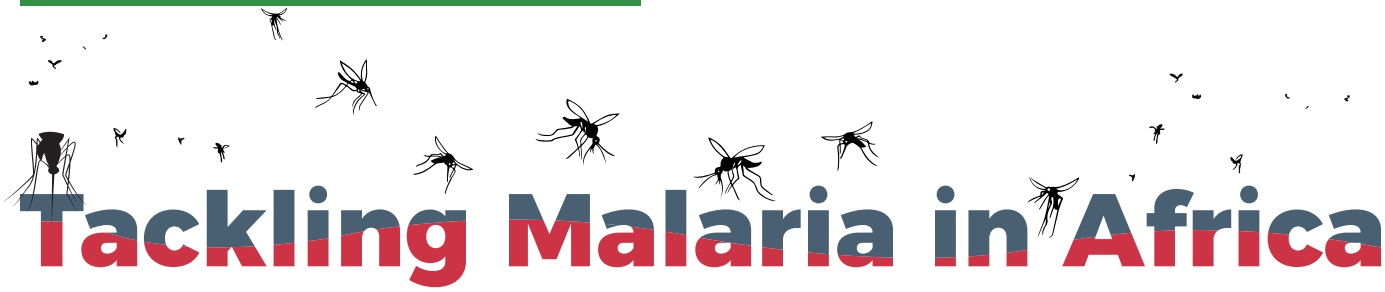
Improving health services requires not only more political will, but political choice via policy transformation, human resources strengthening, and innovative financing to close the standing health financing gap. Despite the fact that economic growth creates a greater ability for populations to afford quality health services, access to quality health care remains limited by the scarcity of public resources. The average annual value of illicit financial flows far exceeds the health financing gap in Africa. By reducing these illicit flows, governments could finance health care and other social sectors.

Without substantial increases in domestic investment, and a radical change in the way health is harmonised to domestic and continental priorities, Africa will lose any realistic chance of reaching health targets for 2030. African countries and Africa's development partners must reorient health spending and health systems to target the diseases across the life cycle that have the greatest measurable impact on mortality and human capital development. In addition, African countries should enhance funding for the health sector by identifying innovative sources of finance and accessing private financial investors through public-private partnerships (PPPs) as this will offers the best chance to provide the high quality, affordable and accessible healthcare our populations deserve.

From Left to right: Mrs Erna Solberg, *Norwegian Prime Minister* **(Left)** *and* **Dr. Tedros Adhanom;** *WHO Director General* **(Right)**

Opportunities abound for the health sector if PPPs leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in the areas of service delivery and health financing with key segments such as laboratories and diagnostics, digital technologies, and human resources and education remaining underserved regional ; investment in these sectors at a regional and continental level will contribute to the diversification the African economies and creation of opportunities for employment.

PROMOTING HEALTH IN AFRICA



Tackling Malaria in Africa

Malaria continues to claim the lives of more than 435 000 people each year, largely in Africa. Children under 5 years are especially vulnerable and the fact that every two minutes a child dies from this preventable and curable disease is both tragic and unacceptable.

While there has been remarkable progress in responding to malaria over the years, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) - World Malaria Report 2017 , there was an estimated 219 million global malaria cases, of which 200 million (92%) were in Africa. These cases resulted in 403,000 deaths across the continent (93% of global deaths). Nearly 80% of global malaria deaths in 2017 were concentrated in 17 countries in Africa and India; 7 of these countries accounted for 53% of all global malaria deaths: Nigeria (19%), Democratic Republic of the Congo (11%), Burkina Faso (6%), United Republic of Tanzania (5%), Sierra Leone (4%), Niger (4%) and India (4%).

Malaria is estimated to rob Africa of USD12 billion per year in lost productivity, investment and associated health care costs and 1.3% of lost annual GDP growth threby impacting economic growth.

The Catalytic Framework to End AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030, adopted by Heads of State and Government at the July 2016 Summit, acknowledges the major threat to public health and global health security posed by malaria. The malaria epidemic can side track Africa's human capital development efforts - a critical lever for Agenda 2063's socioeconomic and structural transformation roadmap.

In June 2018, African Heads of State and Government endorsed the "Zero Malaria Starts with Me" Campaign to stimulate grassroots action, foster social mobilisation and collective responsibility to end malaria as a public health threat by 2030. This followed by the co-launch of the Campaign by His Majesty King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Eswatini and His Excellency Macky Sall, the President of the Republic of Senegal, on 1st July 2018. The campaign targets grassroots movements and appeals to all stakeholders (political leaders, private sector, communities, and other members of society) to commit to the fight against malaria. Eight countries have already launched the "Zero Malaria Starts with Me" campaign, namely: Senegal, Mozambique, Niger, Mauritania, Uganda, Zambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and more than 30 others have expressed interest in its rollout.

There are several outstanding challenges across Africa limiting tangible achievements in the fight against malaria. These include weak health systems; gaps in the uptake of available interventions; low per capita investment on malaria; and the threat of resistance to medicines and insecticides.

These challenges call for more attention to be paid to mobilising domestic resources for increased access and sustainability of prevention and treatment services as well as a greater political commitment, stronger global partnership and coordination, and increased financing. Sustaining funding for strong and stable health systems is one of the most critical aspects for making this happen.

"Zero Malaria Starts with Me" provides an umbrella for global, regional, subregional, and national efforts to accelerate efforts towards malaria elimination. This builds on existing malaria control and elimination initiatives. Based on successful campaigns used in Senegal, Cameroon, and across Africa, the approach supports African nations in their efforts towards malaria elimination through three thematic areas:

- **Theme 1:** High-level engagement with government, the private sector, and civil society leaders;
- **Theme 2:** Advocating for an increase in external and domestic funding for malaria elimination, including through innovative funding mechanisms and the private sector; and
- **Theme 3:** Increasing awareness and ownership at the community level.

To encourage the proliferation of the campaign, the AU Commission and the RBM Partnership to End Malaria have developed an open, online platform (www.zeromalaria.africa), to meet the needs of each stakeholder (governments, national malaria control programmes, civil society organisations or private sector companies) mobilised for a malaria-free Africa. The toolkit contains elements to help countries develop campaigns tailored to their needs and will help countries share successful approaches.

The AU Africa Centres for Disease Control (Africa-CDC) has also increased support to African countries to improve surveillance, emergency response, and prevention of infectious diseases. This includes addressing outbreaks, man-made and natural disasters, and public health events of regional and international concern. This new public health order in Africa will improve our response to malaria.

African countries should accelerate efforts towards universal access to malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment, transform malaria surveillance into a core intervention, harness innovation and expand research, strengthen the enabling environment and accelerate efforts towards elimination and malaria free status. In addition African nations must renew their commitments and strengthen instruments to attain a malaria-free Africa by 2030 in line with the Catalytic Framework to end AIDS, TB and Eliminate Malaria in Africa by 2030 through increased domestic financing, increased access to life-saving malaria interventions, as well as more robust health systems.

PROMOTING HEALTH IN AFRICA

THE AFRICAN MEDICINES AGENCY **(AMA)**

The establishment of an African Medicines Agency (AMA) is essential in Africa's efforts to accelerate the attainment of Africa's Agenda 2063, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa, and to advance the implementation of the Africa Health Strategy (2016-2030). The Treaty for the Establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) was adopted by African Union Heads of State and Government during the AU Summit in February 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The treaty shall come into Force once 15 member states have ratified it.

AMA is intended to be an organ of the AU, legally mandated by Member States and is expected to

- Enhance the regulatory environment, to improve access to medical products by providing guidance and complementing the efforts of the RECs towards harmonisation of medical products regulation. Establishment of AMA is expected to contribute to the ultimate goal of establishing developing strong national regulatory systems, with excellent technical back-up at regional and continental levels in Africa.
- Provide a platform for coordination and strengthening of on-going initiatives to harmonise medicines regulation.
- Pool expertise and capacities and strengthening networking for optimal use of the limited resources available on the continent.

The AMA will have a coordination and stewardship function for the regulatory activities of the Member States. Among the core regulatory functions, the AMA will perform the following:

- **Marketing authorisation:** The AMA will be responsible for evaluation and decision making with regard to selected medical products for treatment of priority diseases/conditions as determined by the African Union.
- **Inspection:** The AMA will undertake coordination and share information on a regular basis in regard to all products that it has authorised for marketing.
- **Market surveillance:** The AMA will coordinate the collection and sharing of information on all medical products.
- **Safety monitoring:** The AMA will be responsible for making regulatory decisions concerning products selected for treatment of priority diseases/conditions as determined by Member States, based on available safety information. In addition, the AMA will collect and store information on the quality and safety of medical products and share them with all its Member States and even globally. It will also establish collaboration with global and regional centres in the area of safety monitoring.
- **Oversight of clinical trials:** The AMA will coordinate joint reviews of applications for conduct of clinical trials
- **Quality control:** The AMA will coordinate and network quality control laboratory services for national and sub regional regulatory authorities.

AMA is predestined to become an African-driven, independent, strong, and strategic institution for strengthening medical products' regulatory systems on the continent, and consolidating human expertise and financial resources to effectively manage the prevalence of Substandard and Falsified (SF) medical products, and address the burden of access to essential medicines. Currently, prevalence of SF medical products is rampant due to weak regulatory systems.

There have been on-going regulatory harmonisation initiatives in Africa based on the AU Heads of State and Governments' decision on the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) and African Union Roadmap on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa, that give a high priority to the quality, safety, efficacy and affordability of medicines, including blood products. Consequently, the establishment of African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) initiative contributes to achievement of the PMPA vision. AMA will support the varying regulatory capacities of member states and will help set-up a comprehensive, regional system of regulatory supervision that serves to harmonize regulations across national boundaries, make efficient use of its limited resources, and deepen its capacity building.

AMA is taking a strategic step-wise approach by leveraging existing initiatives, such as the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) and African Vaccines Regulatory Forum (AVAREF), as building blocks to addressing regulatory challenges faced by African countries in ensuring effective coordination, scaling up activities and inculcating sustainability aspects.

The AMA will also lead the establishment and strengthening of Regional Centres of Regulatory Excellency in order to develop the capacity of medical products regulatory professionals. Other key mandates will include the promotion of international cooperation and partnerships for the mobilisation of financial and technical resources. The agency will promote and advocate for the use of the AU Model Law on Medical Products Regulation in Member States and RECs to facilitate regulatory and legal reforms at continental, regional and national levels.

The establishment of AMA will ensure that African entrepreneurs and businesses are able to harness the expected growth in the African pharmaceutical industry to create jobs for the youths and ignite social and economic development on the continent.

The AU Commission is also open to receiving offers for the hosting of the Africa Medicines Agency, and criteria for hosting shall be sent out to all member states as a guide. The determination of which member states host the AMA shall be an Assembly decision that will be based on the assessment report. Therefore all member states are encouraged to ratify the Treaty for the Establishment of the AMA in order that the continent can build on progress that has been made by regional medicines regulatory harmonisation to strengthen them and rid the continent of fake medicines and medical products.

CONTINENTAL NUTRITION ACCOUNTABILITY SCORECARD | 2019

Country	Nutrition Status					
	% of children under 5 yrs who are stunted (moderate and severe)	% of children under 5 yrs who are wasted (moderate and severe)	% of children under 5 yrs who are overweight (moderate and severe)	% of women of reproductive age (15-49 years of age with aneamia)	% exclusive breatsfeeding (EBF) among infants 0-6 months of age	% of children under 5 yrs old with aneamia
Algeria	12	4	12	36	25	30
Angola	38	5	3	48	37	51
Benin	34	5	2	47	41	62
Botswana	31	7	11	30	20	40
Burkina Faso	27	8	1	50	50	86
Burundi	56	5	1	27	82	47
Cabo verde	21	7	0	33	60	55
Cameroon	32	5	7	41	28	63
Central African Republic (CAR)	41	8	2	46	33	72
Chad	40	13	3	48		73
Comoros	31	11	11	29	21	48
Côte d'Ivoire	22	6	3	53	24	73
Democratic Republic of Congo	43	8	4	29	47	63
Djibouti	34	22	8	33	12	42
Egypt	22	10	16	29	40	32
Equatorial Guinea	26	3	10	44	7	64
Eritrea	50	16	2	38	69	57
Eswatini	26	2	9	27	64	42
Ethiopia	38	10	3	23	57	50
Gabon	17	3	8	59	5	63
Ghana	19	5	3	46	52	67
Guinea	32	8	4	51	35	74
Guinea-Bissau	28	6	2	44	53	68
Kenya	26	4	4	27	61	41
Lesotho	33	3	7	27	67	50
Liberia	32	6	3	35	35	69
Libya	21	7	22	33		29
Madagascar	49	15	6	37	42	49
Malawi	37	3	5	34	59	59
Mali	30	14	2	51	8	83
Mauritania	28	15	1	37	41	68
Mauritius	14	16	7	25	21	36
Morocco	14	2	11	37	28	34
Mozambique	43	6	8	51	41	60
Namibia	23	7	4	23	48	47
Niger	42	10	3	50	23	77
Nigeria	44	7	2	50	23	68
Republic of Congo	21	8	4	52	33	64
Rwanda	37	2	8	22	87	36
São Tomé and Príncipe	17	4	2	46	51	65
Senegal	17	7	1	50	36	68
Seychelles	8	4	10	22		35
Sierra Leone	38	9	9	48	31	77
Somalia	25	15	3	44	5	56
South Africa	27	3	13	26	32	37
South Sudan	31	23	6	34	45	58
Sudan	38	16	3	31	55	57
The Gambia	25	11	3	58	47	76
Togo	28	7	2	49	57	71
Tunisia	10	3	14	31	9	29
Uganda	29	4	4	29	66	51
United Republic of Tanzania	35	5	4	37	59	55
Zambia	40	6	6	34	72	54
Zimbabwe	27	3	6	29	48	42
SOURCE	WHO/ World Bank JME	UNICEF and WHO JMP	WHO	WHO	WHO, NLiS	World Bank/ UNICEF

On Track | Progress | Not on Track | No data

Coverage of Services			Governance, Policy and Legal Provisions		Socio-Economic Impact	Country
% of children aged 6-59 months who received two age-appropiatedoses of vitamin A in the past 12 months	Access to clean drinking water (% population)	Access to improved sanitation facilities (% population)	Legislation on mandatory fortification for foods (No=0, Yes=1)	Legislation on code of marketing breats milk substitutes	Per Capita Income (USD)	
	93	88	1	0	4 123	Algeria
14	42	39	1	0	4 170	Angola
94	67	14	1	1	829	Benin
75	79	60	0	1	7 595	Botswana
99	54	23	1	0	670	Burkina Faso
78	56	50	1	0	320	Burundi
	86	65	1	1	3 209	Cabo verde
55	65	39	1	0	1 446	Cameroon
40	54	34	1	0	418	Central African Republic (CAR)
85	43	10	1	0	660	Chad
17	84	34	0	0	797	Comoros
72	73	30	1	0	1 662	Côte d'Ivoire
44	42	20	0	0	457	Democratic Republic of Congo
69	77	51	1	0	1 927	Djibouti
68	98	93	1	0	2 412	Egypt
	50	75	0	0	9 850	Equatorial Guinea
51	19	11	0	0	583	Eritrea
39	68	58	0	0	3 224	Eswatini
79	39	7	1	0	767	Ethiopia
2	88	41	1	1	7 220	Gabon
33	78	14	1	1	1641	Ghana
69	67	22	1	0	825	Guinea
87	69	22	1	0	723	Guinea-Bissau
41	58	30	1	0	1 507	Kenya
67	72	44	1	0	1 181	Lesotho
92	70	17	1	0	456	Liberia
	97	100	0	0	7 998	Libya
97	51	10	1	1	449	Madagascar
91	67	44	1	0	338	Malawi
99	74	31	1	0	338	Mali
75	70	45	1	0	1 136	Mauritania
	100	93	0	0	10 547	Mauritius
89	83	84	1	0	3 007	Morocco
55	47	24	1	0	415	Mozambique
22	79	34	0	0	5 337	Namibia
94	46	13	1	0	378	Niger
56	67	33	1	0	1 968	Nigeria
48	68	15	1	0	1 658	Republic of Congo
96	57	62	0	0	748	Rwanda
34	80	40	1	0	1 913	São Tomé and Príncipe
99	75	48	1	0	1 033	Senegal
	96	100	0	0	15 504	Seychelles
99	58	15	0	0	499	Sierra Leone
	40	16	0	0	499	Somalia
42	85	73	1	1	6 160	South Africa
66	50	10	0	0	237	South Sudan
	59	35	0	0	2 898	Sudan
27	80	42	1	1	483	The Gambia
61	63	14	1	0	617	Togo
	94	93	1	0	3 490	Tunisia
65	39	19	1	1	604	Uganda
92	50	24	1	1	936	United Republic of Tanzania
99	61	31	1	0	1 509	Zambia
34	67	39	1	1	1 079	Zimbabwe
UNICEF	WHO/ UNICEF JMP	WHO/ UNICEF JMP	FFI	WHO	World Bank	SOURCE

In close consultation with; Action Contre la Faim, African Leaders Malaria Allaince, African Nutrition Society, African Union Commission, Aliko Dangote Foundation, Big Win Philanthropy, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Forum for Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, Gracha Machel Trust, International Center for Tropical Agriculture, International Food Policy Research Institute, New Partnerships for Africa's Development, Scaling-Up Nutrition Movement, United Nations Childrens Fund, The World Bank, World Food Program and World health Organization

January to June 2019

THE YEAR IN IMAGES

One MIllion by 2021 Laucnh in Addis Ababa

Some of the participants of the Girls in ICT Day hosted by the AUC

Miss Aya Chebbi AU Youth envoy at the One MIllion by 2021 launch

AUC chairperson Moussa Faki with Libyan President H.E. Fayez al-Serraj on April 1st, Tripoli, Libya

Prof Sarah Anyang Agbor; *Commissioner for HRST* **at the One Million by 2021 Launch**

Prof Sarah Anyang Agbor; *Commissioner for HRST Interacting with some of the* **Participants of the Girls in ICT Day**

Out and about - AU election observers vigilantly observe an election

H.E. Emmanuel Macron, *President of the French Republic* **being received at the AUC by H.E Moussa Fakhi, AUC Chairperson**

Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat in a bilateral meeting with President of Tunis, Mohamed Beji Caid Essebsi in Tunis; ***April 21st 2019***

MOU between African Union & United Kingdom Government; ***February 2019***

Memorial Wall of fallen AU Soldiers killed in action at the Julius Nyerere Peace & Security Building, AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa

Maj. Gen. Francis Okello; *AMISOM representative* **at the unveiling of the memorial wall**

Joint workshop on preparations for the AU's participation at the Dubai 2020 exhibition From Left to Right: Miss Hind Alowais; Vice President, *International Participants at Dubai Expo 2020,* **Mr. Ahmed Al Badawi;** *UAE Embassy in Ethiopia***, H.E. Kwesi Quartey,** *Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission* **and Dr. Levi Uche Madueke;** *Head of Partnership Management and Coordination Division (PMCD)*

The Statue of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie; *The Emperor of Ethiopia* **and one of the Founding Fathers of the OAU, erected at the AUC Compound**

2019

THE YEAR OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS:

Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.

#NEVERMYCHOICE

"THE EXTRAORDINARY CHALLENGES, SUCH AS THE CURRENT REFUGEE AND MIGRATION SITUATION, REQUIRE US TO WORK TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THEIR ROOT CAUSES IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN AS WELL AS IN COUNTRIES OF TRANSITION AND DESTINATION. THIS IS A NEW CHALLENGE ON WHICH WE NEED TO COLLABORATE AND FIND NEW AND SUSTAINABLE WAYS OF RESPONDING.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

UPDATE ON AU MISSION ACTIVITIES

AU-UN Partnership

3rd AU-UN Annual Conference

António Guterres; *United Nations Secretary-General*, **H.E Moussa Fakhi;** *AUC Chairperson* **at the 3rd AU-UN Annual Conference, May 2019, New York**

The African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat and the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres convened the Third African Union - United Nations Annual Conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in May 2019. The meeting was a reflection of the on-going strong co-operation and collaboration between the two organisations, particularly in the implementation of both the UN-AU Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security and the AU-UN Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The meeting reiterated the commitment to continue to deepen the strategic partnership between the two organisations in addressing peace and security issues and achieving sustainable development issues in Africa, through a more integrated approach. Continued collaboration for the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other related instruments, including the Free Movement Protocol and the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), was discussed, notably in view of their significant potential to boost regional integration, strengthen inclusive economic growth, generate jobs for young Africans, alleviate poverty and lead to more stable and peaceful societies. The conference urged greater efforts to harness Africa's youth dividend, notably with investments in health, education, data and in science and technology.

The declaration by the AU on the 2019 Theme of the Year "Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa", was welcomed as it aligned with the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (OAU Refugee Convention) and the 10th Anniversary of the 2009 AU Convention for the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention). The Secretary-General and the Chairperson highlighted the remarkable solidarity shown by African countries in this respect and welcomed the leadership of the AU and its Member States in advancing the normative framework for the protection and assistance of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons. They looked forward to all Member States signing, ratifying and domesticating these instruments.

A detailed communique can be found on **www.au.int**

ADVERT

The African Union Commission Conference Center and office complex boasts an elegant atmosphere coupled with modern architecture and modern technology rendering it an apt location for organizing meetings, conferences and other events.

The Conference Center is situated in the heart of Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia known for hosting the African Union Summit which brings together over 3000 representatives from government (African and international), private sector, international institutions, regional and international media and members of the public. The AU Conference center is centrally located with easy to access to the city's landmarks, diplomatic missions, hotels and many other key locales, making an ideal venue to organize your events.

The African Union conference facilities offers 1 large conference plenary hall with a seating capacity of 2500 people, 2 medium conference halls which seats 400 to 700 people each and 5 small conference rooms with 113 capacity halls which accommodate varying capacities. It also houses 30 Caucus Rooms, seating 21 to 34 people each and 2 committee rooms with the capacity of 31 to 46 people ideal for smaller meetings. The various Briefing Rooms hosting between 40 to 54 people. A Multipurpose Room with a capacity to seat 600 people is also available for receptions and is surrounded by lobbies ideal for exhibitions. Our VIP Lounges and Rooms will welcome your prestigious guests! In addition the outdoor Amphitheater with a seating capacity of 1000 is an ideal outdoor setting for concerts and other live shows.

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