



Florida High Schools Model United Nations

FHSMUN 45

African Union Peace & Security Council (AUPSC)

Reevaluating the Goals & Priorities Agenda 2063

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“I call upon all Africans, on the Continent, and in the Diaspora, to find their only satisfaction in the permanent awareness of our objectives of development, integration, freedom, and active solidarity.”

H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat - African Union Chairperson

As we envision “The Africa We Want”, we must strive to put people at the center of everything we do, and ensure better livelihoods for every one of the continent’s citizens. The Africa we want is an integrated, peaceful, and prosperous continent. It must be a place where employment opportunities are available for those who seek jobs, and where children go to bed with full bellies, rather than hunger pangs. The Africa of the future must be a place where an expectant mother eagerly awaits the birth of her baby, rather than quietly fearing death in childbirth. The Africa of the future must be a place where the disabled can lead dignified lives with a decent roof over their heads, rather than seeking refuge on the streets. “The Africa We Want” should not be a distant dream, but rather our collective endeavor. And with resolve, continued commitment, perseverance, and support from the international community and the UN system, we should endeavor to make it a reality.

H.E Mr. Jan Eliasson - Former Deputy Secretary-General

“The United States is all in on Africa and all in with Africa... African voices, African leadership, and African innovation all are critical to addressing the most pressing global challenges and to realizing the vision we all share: a free world, a world that is open, prosperous, and secure... Africa belongs at the table in every room — in every room where global challenges are being discussed and in every institution where discussions are taking place... The United States fully supports an “integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa” that is driven by African people, centered on inclusive and sustainable development, and where Africa is an indispensable global partner.

Joseph R Biden - Current United States President

COMMITTEE BRIEF

Content warning: one section of this guide includes references to sexual assault and domestic violence. There is a disclaimer before the section to notify readers and offer the opportunity to skip ahead of it.

Introduction

On January 30th, 2015, Agenda 2063 was adopted at the annual African Union Summit. This framework was designed in alignment with the United Nations' sustainable development goals – a separate global 15-year plan – formulated to guide development within Africa for the next 50 years. The original framework was set to build upon existing African frameworks in the economic, social, political, scientific, and cultural sectors.¹ The Seven Aspirations of Agenda 2063 each consist of their own goals that will push Africa closer to achieving its vision of the “Africa we Want” by 2063. “These 7 Aspirations reflect our desire for shared prosperity and well-being, for unity and integration, for a continent of free citizens and expanded horizons, where the full potential of women and youth are realized, and with freedom from fear, disease and want.”² As we reconvene a decade after the adoption of Agenda 2063, delegates to the African Union must ask themselves: what has transpired since the adoption of Agenda 2063, and has there been any progress towards its implementation?

Brief Overview of Africa’s History

The continent of Africa has a history that can only be described as complex and multi-faceted. Africa has long been known as a continent with vast mineral resources such as fossil fuels, metallic ores, gems, and precious metals. Africans have continued to utilize and capitalize off these precious resources and serve as a safety blanket over many decades, a financial blanket that allowed many nations and empires to flourish, even amidst wars and internal conflicts. For example, in 1312, Mansa Musa became the ruler of the Mali empire after his predecessor embarked on a voyage and never returned. Without Mansa Musa taking the throne, Mali's empire could have plunged into chaos and ruin as Europe (a key trade partner for the African economy) struggled due to raging civil wars and a lack of resources. Under Musa's rule, the Mali Empire grew into a prosperous empire that expanded from the Atlantic coast to the inland trading hub of Timbuktu and even parts of the Sahara desert.³ Musa's rule not only led to the economic perspiration of Malis's citizens but also his influence is often linked to the diaspora of Islam as Islamic learning centers, schools, universities, and the grandest library in all of Africa which made Mali into a multilingual and multiethnic kingdom.⁴

Despite Musa's efforts to create a long-lasting empire that would flourish beyond his death in 1337,⁵ the empire's power and control over Africa steadily weakened over time due to other trade centers developing worldwide, eventually leading to its downfall in 1591.⁶ The deterioration and collapse of many African empires left them vulnerable enough for European

¹ “Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. | African Union,” n.d., <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview>.

² “Our Aspirations for the Africa We Want | African Union,” n.d., <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/aspirations>.

³ Thaddeus Morgan, “This 14th-Century African Emperor Remains the Richest Person in History,” *HISTORY*, July 18, 2023, <https://www.history.com/news/who-was-the-richest-man-in-history-mansa-musa>.

⁴ “The Mali Empire,” n.d., <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/mali-empire/>.

⁵ “The Empire of Mali (1230-1600) | South African History Online,” n.d., <https://www.sahistory.org.za/article/empire-mali-1230-1600>.

⁶ Black History Month, “The Mali Empire - Black History Month 2023.”

nations to take notice as they depleted many of their resources in various wars within the region. Many claim that European colonization of Africa was done out of pure necessity. Europe's economy had been primarily tied to the Silk Road and its goods, which later came under threat as the rise of the Ottoman Turks disrupted traditional trade routes.⁷

The “Age of Discovery” in the fifteenth century marked the beginning of modern colonialism – in looking for new trade routes and people, Portugal colonized Ceuta (on the coast of North Africa) and controlled the territory until 1999, when they transferred the state to Spain.⁸ Portugal was the first, but Spain, England, the Netherlands, France, and Germany all followed soon thereafter – colonizing most of the New World widely known as “The Scramble for Africa,” which was an event in which European colonial powers divided the continent amongst themselves during the Paris Conference.⁹

Colonialism and its Impacts

Colonialism in Africa led to the massive expansion of roads and railways across the continent. While these developments benefited the people of Africa, the main driving force behind the expansion was for Europeans to reap the benefits of the infrastructural growth within Africa. Colonialists within Africa instilled within the workforce and traders that their main role within the economy was to produce and extract raw materials for the benefit of their colonizers.¹⁰ This has, even to this day, caused Africa to become heavily reliant on imports and is the main reason Africa is not yet self-sustainable.¹¹

The continual reliance on foreign exports forces many African nations in the present day to accrue large amounts of debt over many decades due to the lack of diversification within the African economy. This decades-long, long-lasting reliance on Africa's more developed counterparts has led to a steady decline in GDP compared to other nations worldwide. According to a 2022 collection of data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Africa currently has an outstanding debt of around 1.8 trillion USD. Since 2010, Africa's debt has increased by an astounding 183%, which is a rate roughly four times higher than its growth rate of GDP in dollar terms.¹² A large chunk of debt was accrued due to ongoing worldwide conflicts such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The COVID-19 pandemic not only had a holistic impact on the region but also was a major reason for the higher debt levels, as African countries needed to import more medical supplies like personal protective equipment, pharmaceuticals, medicines, and vaccines.¹³ Policymakers within the region must take note of these frightening statistics and utilize them as motivation to implement new policies that will lead to a more sustainable and self-sufficient continent and highlight the hardships of recent years to shift our focus to building the Africa we Want.

The Sustainable Development Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are goals and targets that serve as a plan of action for people, the planet, and prosperity. The SDGs acknowledge “that eradicating poverty

⁷ “Motivations for Colonization,” n.d., <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/motivations-colonization/>.

⁸ Amina Khan, “The Age of Discovery and European Colonialism,” *The Review of Religions*, November 24, 2020, <https://www.reviewofreligions.org/26496/the-age-of-discovery-and-european-colonialism/>.

⁹ “Scramble for Africa - New World Encyclopedia.”

¹⁰ “The Philosophy of Colonialism: Civilization, Christianity, and Commerce | Violence in 20th Century Africa.”

¹¹ “Finance and Development,” December 1, 2001, <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2001/12/ajayi.htm>.

¹² “A World of Debt: Regional Stories,” UNCTAD, n.d.,

¹³ “The Territorial Impact of COVID-19: Managing the Crisis and Recovery across Levels of Government.”

in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet.”¹⁴

The SDGs were built upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), deemed “unfair to Africa” due to low-income earnings, weak institutions, lack of infrastructure, and poor governance. Many have argued that besides these previously mentioned reasons, the MDGs failed within Africa due to African nations being expected to adopt Western ideals without development in crucial areas such as democracy, infrastructure, industry, science, technology, and the transformation of agriculture.¹⁵ Despite the MDGs not being met by the target date of 2015, a lot of good still came out of the agenda. According to a study conducted by the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), primary school education within nations that have been identified as “least developed countries,” such as Niger and Burkina Faso, has increased from 20% to more than 60% within a two-decade span.¹⁶ More encouraging statistics also came out of the 2016 African MDG Progress Report, which highlighted that Gambia reduced its poverty rate by 32% over the same two-decade span, while Ethiopia also decreased its poverty rate by one-third and mainly focused on developing the agricultural sector alongside rural livelihoods within the nation.¹⁷

With the MDG’s failures in mind, the UN and its member states worked hand in hand to develop the new set of 17 goals and design the indicators and target frameworks to be used for impact accounting.¹⁸ When comparing the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, it is crucial to recognize that the SDGs represent a much more collaborative effort. Unlike the MDGs, developed primarily by experts behind closed doors, the SDGs were created through an open and inclusive process involving input from diverse stakeholders worldwide. This high degree of collaboration sets the SDGs apart and is a pivotal difference to consider when assessing the two frameworks. The SDGs allow nations and regions to set their agendas, such as Agenda 2063, while having comfort knowing that they will not be tackling these issues on their own but alongside all member nations as outlined in SDG 17 “Partnerships For The Goals” Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.”¹⁹

The Seven Aspirations of Agenda 2063

*A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development*²⁰

Africa aspires to create a high standard of living, quality of life, and well-being for all Africans. This can be achieved through measures to end poverty, reduce inequality, and improve access to jobs, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and sustainable environmental practices. This includes developing Africa’s human capital through investments in education and skills training, especially in science and technology; expanding access to quality healthcare for women and girls; transforming economies by adding value to natural resources, boosting manufacturing

¹⁴ “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | Department of Economic & Social Affairs.”

¹⁵ Adenle, “How Africa Can Perform Better in the New Round of UN Development Goals.”

¹⁶ “MDGs: An Assessment of Africa’s Progress.”

¹⁷ “Africa MDG Progress Reports | United Nations Development Programme.”

¹⁸ Alan Pierce, “Why Shift from MDG To SDG?,” *Sopact* (blog), n.d.,

¹⁹ “Goal 17 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs,” n.d., <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal17>.

²⁰ “AUDA-NEPAD,” n.d., <https://www.nepad.org/agenda-2063/goals/341>.

and industrialization, and raising productivity and competitiveness; modernizing agriculture to increase production and make Africa a net positive food exporter; harnessing the potential of Africa's oceans and blue economies; and promoting climate resilience and sustainable management of biodiversity, forests, lands, and waters. Targeted strategies and policies in these key areas can promote inclusive growth and development and ensure all Africans have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

While Africa continues to feel the effects of colonization of its territories, there have been many new developments in the quality of life within Africa. It has become apparent within the international community that the pandemic has altered many nations and caused them to fall off track of completing the 17 SDGs by their target date of 2030.²¹ Keeping that in mind, we must address the concerns and impacts on Africa's Agenda 2063. An executive summary carried out by the African Union in partnership with UNICEF titled "Transforming education in Africa" provides key insight into COVID-19 and its effects and the next steps we must take to set us back on track of fulfilling Agenda 2063 in its entirety. According to this report, Africa will be home to over a billion children and adolescents under 18 by the middle of the century. With this in mind, it is now time to act to develop and invest in education, as this will lead to a disruption in an inter-generational cycle of poverty and will aid socioeconomic development within Africa. Without this shift in direction, African nations will continue to bear the term of a "Least Developed Country"²² and will only lead to an increase in children who do not attend school, which, as of 2022, stands at 98 million within Sub-Saharan Africa, and represents 41 percent of the global number.²³

The executive summary, conducted and published in 2021, outlines eight steps the delegates to the AU must take to reimagine education and build a better life for our children while also building the Africa we want. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, delegates must not accept our old ways as Africa eases back into "normal" living conditions. The African Union must draft solutions that go above and beyond a "business as usual" response, and develop systems that will increase inclusion within schools, focus on foundational learning starting at early stages of life, and develop efficient and innovative education funding mechanisms that will create a sustainable sector of education and inclusivity within Africa... the Africa we want.²⁴

*An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance*²⁵

Africa aspires to achieve unity driven by the Pan-Africanist spirit of liberation, political and economic independence, and self-reliance and self-determination for African people under democratic and people-centered governance. Key goals to achieve this vision include accelerating progress toward continental integration and sustained growth by establishing a united Africa and expediting the implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area; improving connectivity across Africa through ambitious rail, road, sea, air, and ICT initiatives; and completing decolonization by ending all remnants of colonialism, fully liberating occupied

²¹ "UN/DESA Policy Brief #81: Impact of COVID-19 on SDG Progress: A Statistical Perspective | Department of Economic and Social Affairs."

²² "Unleashing Women and Girls' Human Capital: A Game Changer for Africa."

²³ "Out-of-School Numbers Are Growing in Sub-Saharan Africa," *Global Education Monitoring Report*, March 21, 2023, <https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en/2022-out-school>.

²⁴ "Transforming Education In Africa" | *Executive summary AU-UNICEF* | February 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/media/106691/file/Transforming%20Education%20in%20Africa.pdf>

²⁵ "Official Reports - U.S. Mission to The African Union."

African territories including the Chagos Archipelago, Comorian Island of Mayotte, and allowing self-determination for the people of Western Sahara. By focusing on pan-African unity, infrastructure development, and complete decolonization, Africa can fulfill its enduring quest to build a prosperous, integrated, and truly liberated continent.

The Pan-Africanist movement has been a driving force for African unity and independence since the early 20th century. Key figures such as Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, and Thabo Mbeki advocated for political and economic independence from colonial powers, leading to a wave of African nations gaining sovereignty in the 1950s-1960s.²⁶ This push for self-determination was rooted in a shared identity and a desire to undo the damage of colonialism across the continent (Mazrui, 1999). Regional cooperation bodies like the Organization for African Unity, founded in 1963, sought to coordinate policies and promote solidarity between newly independent states. The Abuja Treaty of 1991 established the African Economic Community to boost trade and development.²⁷ The African Union, formed in 2002, has aimed to achieve greater continental integration, modeled after the European Union. Despite challenges of resource competition and ethnic tensions, the Pan-Africanist dream of a prosperous, peaceful, united Africa continues to drive initiatives for multi-national infrastructure, free trade areas, and peer conflict resolution across the continent.

In recent years, Africa has made tremendous efforts in the economic sector with legislation such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which aims to create the largest free trade zone since the World Trade Organization (WTO). The AfCFTA will cover a market of approximately 1.2 billion customers and, according to the World Bank, could lift millions out of extreme poverty and add nearly \$76 billion in income to the rest of the world.²⁸ It is also vital, however, to address the issues that have prevented monumental developments in the economic sectors, such as the AfCFTA, with issues such as political turmoil, infrastructure gaps, and security threats, which are all among the impediments to free trade in much of Africa.²⁹ Without a shift in mindset and goals, plans such as AfCFTA will only lead to further unrest in Africa and disagreements between opposing sides. We must build every nation within Africa to have stronger governance and democratic institutions to build a more sustainable Africa...the Africa we want.

Disclaimer: the following section includes references to sexual assault and domestic violence. Please skip to the next subsection (“A peaceful and secure Africa”) if the above topics are triggering; you will not be held responsible for any information in the following section.

*An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law*³⁰

Africa aspires to achieve good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law across the continent. The goals are to entrench democratic values, universal human rights principles, justice, and the rule of law and to build strong, capable institutions with visionary, development-oriented leadership at all levels. By consolidating democratic gains, improving governance quality, strengthening institutions for an effective development state, and

²⁶ “Thabo Mbeki’s African Renaissance in a Globalising World Economy: The Struggle for the Soul of the Continent on JSTOR.”

²⁷ “Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community | African Union,” n.d.,

²⁸ World Bank Group, “The African Continental Free Trade Area.”

²⁹ “The African Continental Free Trade Area and Exchange Rate Misalignments | Brookings.”

³⁰ “Official Reports - U.S. Mission to The African Union.”

facilitating the emergence of transformative leaders in all spheres, Africa can realize its aspiration of universal good governance, democracy, human rights, justice, and the rule of law. With democratic norms and institutions firmly rooted, Africa will be better poised to deliver prosperity, dignity, and enhanced well-being for all its citizens.

Africa has made significant progress in promoting good governance, democracy, human rights, justice, and the rule of law across the continent in recent decades. Some examples include South Africa's transition to democracy and the adoption of one of the world's most progressive constitutions after the end of apartheid in 1994.³¹ Ghana has held successful democratic elections and transfers of power between opposing parties since the 1990s.³² Rwanda has rebuilt institutions and enacted reforms to uphold justice and reconciliation after the 1994 genocide.³³ The African Union established the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance in 2007 to reinforce commitments to democratic principles.³⁴ There is much work yet to be done. Still, many African nations have taken necessary steps to strengthen governance, uphold human rights, and embed democratic values following their development goals.

It has become apparent that the COVID-19 pandemic shifted the international community off track to completing the 17 SDGs. However, COVID was not the only pandemic affecting families worldwide; there was the undercovered pandemic, suppressed by media, which has now been deemed the “Shadow pandemic.” Battery and sexual violence against women are such frequent crimes that, in many instances, they do not generate significant headlines or news coverage. The exceptions are the times when women’s voices are heeded, perhaps because of their numbers in protests, the presence of male relatives, friends, and allies who seek to redress these problems, or even the presence of local Western media.³⁵ Even before COVID-19, violence against women was one of the most widespread violations of human rights. As the pandemic raged on, the threat of a “shadow pandemic” of violence against women emerged. Reports of violence against women, and particularly domestic violence, increased as security, health, and money worries compounded the strains of living in lockdown,” claims a recent collection of data conducted within the UNWOMEN database “Women Count.”³⁶ During the pandemic, women not only had to worry about the rapidly spreading deadly disease that ended up killing nearly 7 million people³⁷ worldwide, but they also had to mask up in preparation for the “Shadow Pandemic.” According to the Women Count database, 64% of women reported that during the pandemic, they had been yelled at, called names, and humiliated; 52% of women reported that they had been slapped, kicked, had things thrown at them, or some sort of other physical pain inflicted on them, 43% of women claimed that they had been the subject of inappropriate jokes, suggestive comments, and unwelcomed sexual acts (kissing, touching, etc.). These statistics do not end there. Even in a time of global isolation, 44% of these same women reported that they were forced to stay home alone for long periods or denied communication with others; 53% claimed that they were denied basic needs such as rights of food, water, shelter, proper Personal

³¹ “Introduction: Transition to Democracy,” Facing History & Ourselves, August 3, 2018, <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/introduction-transition-democracy>.

³² Freedom House, “Ghana,” *Freedom House*, n.d., <https://freedomhouse.org/country/ghana/freedom-world/2023>.

³³ “Rwanda: Justice after Genocide—20 Years On.”

³⁴ “African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance | African Union,” n.d., <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-charter-democracy-elections-and-governance>.

³⁵ UN WOMEN Executive Director, November 9, 2015.

³⁶ UN Women – Headquarters. “Facts and Figures: Ending Violence against Women,” n.d.

³⁷ “WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard,” WHO Coronavirus (COVID-19) Dashboard With Vaccination Data,

Protective Equipment (PPE).³⁸ Even before the pandemic, violence against women has been recognized as a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms. There are high rates of violence against women in all regions, with recent estimates published by the WHO indicating that globally, about 1 in 3 (30%) of women worldwide have been subjected to either physical or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime.³⁹ The majority of women who are attacked do not seek help or support, particularly in countries where there exist discriminatory attitudes and social norms that normalize and permit violence. Attitudes that blame the victim are widespread across the globe, especially in nations deemed “Least Developed Countries.” The African Union must work together to build upon the outlines set in its agenda to build a more inclusive and safe Africa... the Africa we want.

*A peaceful and secure Africa*⁴⁰

Africa aspires to become a peaceful and secure continent through functional conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms at all levels. Key goals are to proactively promote dialogue-centered conflict prevention and resolution so that guns fall silent across Africa by 2020; nurture a culture of peace and tolerance among Africa's youth through peace education; strengthen governance, accountability, and transparency as a foundation for lasting peace; bolster reconciliation efforts and address emerging threats to peace and security; and fully operationalize the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) with self-reliant financing strategies for Africa's security needs. With conflicts prevented and resolved through peaceful means, governance strengthened, youth educated in peace, threats addressed, and APSA fully functional, Africa can realize its aspiration to preserve stability and become a peaceful and secure continent.

The APSA was founded around objectives, principles, and values, all in mind to create a plan to keep the people of Africa safe and ensure they are secure within their own homes. The Peace and Security Council (PSC) Protocol, which was adopted in July 2002, is defined by its many structures, namely the Commission, the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), the African Standby Force (ASF) and the Peace Fund.⁴¹ Development in the defense sector can help prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts in Africa by addressing their root causes. Effective implementation of the PSC Protocol will strengthen the capacity of the African Union and Regional Economic Communities to deal with conflicts through mediation, peacekeeping, and post-conflict reconstruction. The PSC's emphasis on good governance, accountability, and transparency will tackle corruption and abuse of power, which often fuel tensions. Overall, the work of the PSC aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063 for a peaceful and prosperous Africa. Faithful implementation of the PSC Protocol will promote security and create conditions conducive to sustainable development across the continent.

For over five years, the situation in northern Mozambique has continued to crescendo with no end in sight. International assistance in the past has had mixed results in mitigating the crisis, with the United States “oversimplif[ying]” the matter by referring to the insurgents as an extension of the Islamic State (IS)⁴² and South Africa's private mercenaries committing

³⁸ “Emerging Data on Violence against Women Confirm a Shadow Pandemic | UN Women Data Hub,” UN Women Data Hub, July 1, 2021,

³⁹ World Health Organization: WHO, “Violence against Women.”

⁴⁰ “Official Reports - U.S. Mission to The African Union.”

⁴¹ Kodjo, “The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)-African Union - Peace and Security Department.”

⁴² Christopher Giles and Peter Mwai, “Mozambique conflict: What's behind the unrest?” BBC, March 29, 2021,

“indiscriminate attacks” in the region.⁴³ With nearly 856,000 displaced people due to the insurgency, the international community does not have room for over-generalizations or mistakes.⁴⁴ On March 24, 2021, insurgents attacked Palma, targeting police stations and banks, then moving to residential and industrial targets. Over the course of a week of gruesome killings, insurgents assaulted residential buildings and a gas project, resulting in civilian casualties.⁴⁵ In one case, hundreds of foreigners and civilians crowded into a hotel, inscribing “HELP” on the lawn.⁴⁶ The Mozambican military recaptured the city on April 5, though a significant portion of the city was destroyed, resulting in the worsening of an already dire humanitarian crisis.⁴⁷ Without proper and necessary action being taken, we cannot fulfill our duty to our citizens to protect and provide. Delegates to the AU must work together to build upon the APSA to build a more secure and peaceful Africa... the Africa we want.

An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics⁴⁸

Africa aspires to foster a strong cultural identity, common heritage, and shared values among its people and the diaspora, grounded in the spirit of Pan-Africanism. The goal is to champion an African cultural renaissance by entrenching Pan-African ideals, tapping into Africa's rich cultural heritage to unleash creative arts for growth and transformation, restoring and preserving linguistic and cultural heritage, and promoting respect for religious diversity. By embracing Pan-Africanism, harnessing creative talents, and protecting its cultural wealth, Africa can ignite a cultural rebirth, reinforce its common identity and heritage, instill shared values and ethics, and ensure that arts and culture substantially contribute to the continent's advancement. This cultural grounding will strengthen the bonds between Africa and its diaspora and catalyze an era of prosperity and renewal.

An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.⁴⁹

Africa aspires to be a continent where development is people-driven, tapping into the potential of all its citizens, especially women and youth, while caring for children. Some ways to achieve this are to achieve full gender equality and women's empowerment in all spheres of life, including political, economic, and social realms; eliminate discrimination and violence against women and girls; create opportunities for youth to access health, education, jobs, and self-realization; and ensure safety, security and early childhood development for all children. By actively engaging all citizens, especially women and youth, in decision-making without exclusion or discrimination and prioritizing the needs of children, Africa can become a genuinely inclusive continent that leaves no one behind. With women empowered, youth potential fulfilled, and children cared for, Africa's people can drive a flourishing, equitable, and prosperous future.

Gender equality is closely tied to economic development and growth. When women are afforded the same rights, resources, and opportunities as men in education, employment,

⁴³ “Mozambique: Civilians killed as war crimes committed by armed group, government forces, and private military contractors - new report,” 2 March 2021, Amnesty International,

⁴⁴ “Humanitarian Action for Children 2022 - Mozambique,” 7 December 2021, Reliefweb,

⁴⁵ Jane Flanagan, “Islamist rebels kill dozens in attack on Mozambique gas project,” The Times UK, 27 March 2021,

⁴⁶ Bearak, “As militants overrun Mozambique oil town” The Washington Post, 31 March 2021,

⁴⁷ Alex Crawford, “Mozambique: Bodies in the street and hospital vandalized,” Sky News, 6 April 2021,

⁴⁸ “Official Reports - U.S. Mission to The African Union.”

⁴⁹ “Official Reports - U.S. Mission to The African Union.”

entrepreneurship, and leadership, economies prosper.⁵⁰ Women's equal participation in the workforce boosts labor force diversity, brings new skills and perspectives, and increases innovation, productivity, and economic output. According to the International Labor Organization, workplace diversity and inclusion enhance productivity, innovation, and well-being. The World Bank estimates that achieving gender parity could increase long-term GDP per capita by 20%.⁵¹ Moreover, gender equality creates a virtuous intergenerational cycle. When girls see women in leadership roles, they are inspired to aim high and pursue their aspirations without limits. This paves the way for the next generation of empowered women to uplift those who follow. Realizing gender equality also catalyzes sustainable development.⁵² Empowered women tend to have fewer children and invest more in health, education, and economic opportunities.⁵³ This promotes demographic dividends and human capital growth. By empowering women and girls, we pave the way for just, inclusive, and prosperous societies, unlocking the full potential of our communities... the Africa we want.

*Africa as a strong, united, resilient, and influential global player and partner.*⁵⁴

Africa aspires to become a strong, united, resilient, influential global player and partner in world affairs. Key goals are to elevate Africa's position in global governance institutions like the UN Security Council, financial systems, and outer space commons; take full responsibility for financing Africa's development and reduce aid dependency by improving strategic partnerships that address the continent's growth priorities, and project African unity and solidarity in the face of external interference and undue pressures. By securing Africa's rightful place in global decision-making, mobilizing domestic resources and partnerships for self-reliant development, and speaking with a strong, united voice, Africa can realize its aspiration of becoming an influential and peaceful global powerhouse that shapes equitable international cooperation and economic governance for the twenty-first century and beyond.

Conclusion

The goals and aspirations outlined in Agenda 2063 serve as an ambitious yet indispensable roadmap for Africa's development over the next few decades. This continental vision sets a path toward a prosperous and united Africa that can take its rightful place globally. However, as we approach the target date of 2063, it is essential that we continually reevaluate and adapt these plans to account for changing realities and lessons learned.

The COVID-19 pandemic and its severe impacts on African economies and societies reveal the need for more resilient and responsive development planning. We must re-examine Agenda 2063 through the lens of building more robust healthcare systems, social safety nets, and disaster preparedness across the continent. Furthermore, episodes of internal conflict and unrest in several African nations over the past years highlight the urgency of promoting peace, human rights, and effective governance. Achieving the aspirations of an integrated and prosperous Africa requires prioritizing political stability and social cohesion. As we revitalize Agenda 2063, we must focus on tangibly implementing its ideas rather than treating it as mere rhetoric. The key

⁵⁰ "Finance and Development," Finance and Development | F&D, March 1, 2012, <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2012/03/revenga.htm>.

⁵¹ World Bank. "Challenges Women Face In The Workplace," n.d.

⁵² Martin, "United Nations: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment," United Nations Sustainable Development, October 19, 2023, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/gender-equality/>.

⁵³ "Facts and Figures: Economic Empowerment," UN Women – Headquarters, n.d.,

⁵⁴ "Official Reports - U.S. Mission to The African Union."

goals of industrialization, infrastructure development, agricultural productivity, and continental trade must be matched with concrete action plans, policy changes, and resource mobilization. Partnerships between governments, regional blocs, civil society, and the private sector will be integral to delivering on these ambitions.

Ultimately, Agenda 2063 represents a crucial roadmap to uplift Africa as a dynamic force in the global arena in the 21st century. However, actualizing the vision requires pragmatic reassessment and adaptation to meet evolving landscapes. By taking bold action to achieve its goals while incorporating lessons learned, Africa can fulfill the promise of Agenda 2063 to build a sustainable and thriving continent that provides prosperity, security, and dignity for all its citizens. The time is now for the African Union to bring this ambitious plan to life and create the Africa we want.

Guiding Questions for Debate

1. What progress has been made towards achieving the goals outlined in Agenda 2063 thus far? Where are there gaps or shortfalls? This will help assess where things currently stand across the different pillars and goals.
2. Do the goals and priorities outlined in Agenda 2063 still reflect African nations' most pressing needs and aspirations today? If not, what goals need to be reevaluated or added? This will help determine if the agenda needs updating.
3. How can we improve the implementation of Agenda 2063 across national and regional levels? What policy, institutional, or financing changes need to happen? This will help identify concrete ways to enhance execution.
4. How can we ensure Agenda 2063 promotes inclusive, sustainable development across Africa? Does it adequately address issues like poverty, youth unemployment, gender equality, climate change, etc? This will help assess if revisions are needed to make it more holistic.

Guiding Questions for Position Papers

1. What goals and priorities outlined in Agenda 2063 are most relevant and important for your country? This helps delegates identify national priorities to emphasize.
2. What progress has your country made so far towards achieving key goals in Agenda 2063? This helps demonstrate national commitment and efforts.
3. What challenges or obstacles has your country faced in implementing aspects of Agenda 2063? This highlights where reevaluation may be needed.
4. What new or emerging priorities would your country like to see reflected in an updated Agenda 2063? This allows delegates to propose revisions based on changing national interests.

RESOURCE REVIEW

UN General Assembly Resolution 69/313

UN General Assembly Resolution 69/313 endorsed the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as a financing framework for both the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063. The Addis Agenda provides policy actions related to domestic resource mobilization, private financing, international development cooperation, trade, debt sustainability, innovations in technology, and capacity building. Delegates can cite UNGA Resolution 69/313 and the Addis Agenda to argue for greater investment in Africa's development priorities. They can advocate for increased domestic resource mobilization, private sector engagement, improved trade terms, sustainable debt relief, and targeted financing for projects that advance both the SDGs and Agenda 2063 goals. Delegates should identify specific Action Agenda measures that align with their member state's interests and priorities. Strategic usage of 69/313 enables justifying policies that further African development under the aligned UN 2030 and AU 2063 frameworks.

UN Security Council Resolution 2457

Adopted in 2019, UN Security Council Resolution 2457 recognizes the importance of robust cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union on peace and security issues in Africa to enable progress on the African Union's Agenda 2063 development goals. The resolution specifically requests the UN Secretary-General work closely with the AU Commission to formalize and operationalize UN system assistance for AU-led efforts related to conflict prevention, crisis management response, and post-conflict reconstruction and development in line with Agenda 2063 aspirations. Within an AU committee setting, delegates can cite UNSCR 2457 to justify and advocate for increased UN political, operational, capacity-building, and financial support for African-led initiatives aligned with their member state's priorities. Strategic usage of 2457 provides a means to argue for strengthened AU security capabilities under a spirit of mutually beneficial African-UN partnership aimed at fulfilling Agenda 2063 objectives.

UN General Assembly Resolution 70/293

UN General Assembly Resolution 70/293 called for coordinated reporting and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063, recognizing their complementarity. In an AU committee, delegates can cite 70/293 to justify integrated policymaking between the two agendas. This provides a basis to propose joint planning, financing, institutions, data analysis, and progress reporting to strengthen the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063 based on member states' priorities. Strategic use of 70/293 enables arguing for collaboration to maximize mutual benefits between the global SDGs and Africa's development vision.