



AFRICA WEEK 2016

Concept Note

High-Level Inaugural Event: “Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusive Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Peace and Stability in Africa”.

ECOSOC Chamber

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

MONDAY 10 OCTOBER 2016, 10:00am – 1:00pm

I. Introduction and Background

The year 2016 marks the first year in the implementation of both the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the African Union's transformative Agenda 2063. The two transformational and ambitious agendas as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda share broad areas of convergence that warrant coherent and coordinated implementation. Given the massive means of implementation required to achieve the transformative and ambitious goals and targets, these over-arching documents underscore the importance of a revitalized global partnership for development. The theme of this year's High Level Inaugural event: "***Strengthening Partnerships for Inclusive Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Peace and Stability***", therefore takes on a pressing necessity for the successful implementation of the SDGs in Africa, and the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Collectively, Africa's strategic partnerships, both with traditional and new and emerging partners, have hitherto invested heavily in supporting a range of Africa's aspirations and goals, including in peace and security, economic and social development, good governance and human rights. The increasing engagement of Africa's development partners in broadening the options for growth on the continent presents significant opportunities for Africa's realization of its transformative agenda. Nevertheless, Africa and its development partners should explore ways and means for streamlining, adjusting and strengthening their partnerships to further serve the cause of a people-centred development and the objectives of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in Africa as outlined in both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

II. The Case for Strengthening and Streamlining Partnerships towards Inclusive Sustainable Development, Good Governance, Peace and Stability in Africa

Enhancing and streamlining Africa's strategic partnerships with both traditional partners such as the European Union, Japan and the United States of America, as well as with new and emerging partners such as Brazil, China, India, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Russian Federation and Turkey have become a necessity in light of the need to mobilize adequate financial and other resources to implement the goals and aspirations laid out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063. While some progress has been made by Africa's strategic partners in supporting African efforts towards attaining peace, security and development objectives such as supporting Africa's progress on many of the MDGs and enhancing the capacity of the African Peace and Security Architecture, gaps and challenges still exist particularly in ensuring that commitments made in the respective fora are adhered to and fully delivered in a timely manner, including on official development assistance and other commitments related to aid for trade, climate finance, capacity building and technology transfer.

By the same token, multi-stakeholder partnerships between governments and other stakeholders, including civil society, private sector and academia are critical for expanding participation and economic opportunities, including for women and youth; enhancing ownership, transparency and accountability; promoting investment and capacity building; and bringing about innovative solutions to meet development challenges.

It is therefore timely that we explore and showcase best practices and experiences from these existing partnerships, and highlight gaps and lessons learned to help strengthen

and streamline these partnerships to ensure mutual and transformative benefits for the international community, the United Nations, African regional and sub-regional organizations, and African countries in the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. North-South cooperation and South-South cooperation should also be strengthened in order to meet SDG 17, and in effect implement all the Goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

III. Overall Objective

In the context of advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the African Union Agenda 2063, and particularly its First Ten Year Implementation plan, the High level Inaugural event will highlight the importance of strengthening and streamlining multi-stakeholder partnerships to ensure the effective implementation, financing and monitoring of all the aspirations and goals contained in both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including those related to inclusive socio-economic development, peace and security, good governance and human rights. It will also seek to advance mutually beneficial partnerships that are guided by the key principles of transparency, mutual accountability and African ownership and leadership to enhance progress across the three pillars of sustainable development on the one hand, and promote Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global partner, on the other.

IV. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this session are to:

- (i) Underscore the importance of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships for the effective implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063 in Africa;
- (ii) Share insights and experiences on Africa's existing strategic partnerships with traditional and new and emerging partners and explore measures for further deepen the transformative and mutual benefits of these partnerships in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, and
- (iii) Highlight opportunities for strengthening the roles and partnerships between the United Nations, international community and African regional and sub-regional organizations in the implementation of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063;

V. Guiding Questions

- i) What are the innovative and concrete approaches to enhance the current partnership between the United Nations and Africa in the areas of peace and security, good governance and respect for human rights and the rule of law, particularly following the three major reviews undertaken at the United Nations on UN peace operations, the peacebuilding architecture and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security?

- ii) How can Africa and its strategic development partners further streamline and adjust existing partnerships to serve the broad scope of the global and continental development agendas, including in the implementation of their ambitious and transformational goals and targets?
- iii) How do we enhance the participation of the private sector, civil society, academia and the Diaspora in mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in Africa?
- iv) How can Africa's strategic partners and other stakeholders, including civil society the private sector, and parliamentarians support monitoring and review efforts at the national, regional and sub-regional level?
- v) How can both traditional and new and emerging development partners support Africa's efforts to strengthen good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights?

VI. Featured Speakers

The event will be structured in two parts, consisting of both an inaugural and substantive sessions. Featured speakers will include: the President of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, the Vice-President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations, among others. The event will be co-moderated by Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa, and Ms. Cristina Gallach, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.