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Regional and International Development Agendas and Special Initiatives - Implementation Review

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I- Introduction

1. This document reviews the main outcomes and recommendations of major United Nations conferences and regional consultations, held in 2017-2018, related to the implementation and monitoring of United Nations Agenda 2030 and African Union Agenda 2063.

2. Implementation of Agenda 2030 remains a complex issue for all countries, given the wide scope of action applicable to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since these are called upon to constitute the systemic framework of public and private action, their appropriation by all key stakeholders is fundamental. Three years after promulgation of Agenda 2030, further efforts are needed to strengthen institutional governance and multi-stakeholder participation in SDG implementation. Identification by countries of priority issues and selection of relevant targets is an important challenge in addition to the fundamental question, yet to be fully addressed, of interrelationships between SDGs.

3. At the continental level, Africa's adoption in 2015 of Agenda 2063 brings on additional complexity. Countries are called upon to integrate Agenda 2063 and the 10-year implementation plans¹ into their national development strategies and plans. The African Union's progress report on the implementation of the first 10-year plan for Agenda 2063 prepared in 2017, highlighted an insufficient visibility of Agenda 2063 in Member States and constraints in financing its activities. To facilitate a coherent and harmonized implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, a joint UN-AU strategic partnership framework was signed in January 2018 and its Action Plan adopted on 9 July 2018 at the second annual UN-AU conference. This partnership framework identifies thematic areas of collaboration that include: advocacy and awareness-raising, integration of both agendas into national planning frameworks, analytical and statistical capacity building, establishment of an integrated monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework, financing mechanisms, trade and regional integration, and links between security and development and human rights.

4. Statistical capacity building is essential to monitor progress and inform sustainable development policies. It is a key area of action to achieve and realize Agenda 2030 (targets 17.18 and 17.19 of SDGs) and Agenda 2063. This is the objective of the Cape Town Global Action Plan on Sustainable Development Data², adopted in 2017. The report showcases progress in preparing the 2nd edition of the United Nations World Data Forum, scheduled to take place in Dubai in October 2018.

5. The climate issue is an integral part of both agendas. The upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to be held in Poland in December 2018, aims to finalize comprehensive rules for implementing the Paris Climate Agreement, and to take stock of the collective situation of countries in relation to their greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments under the agreement³. The report presents results of COP23 and challenges of COP24.

6. Thematically, the report focuses on two areas of importance for the North African sub-region: trade with the creation of a continental free trade area and migration with the upcoming adoption of the Global Pact on Migration⁴.

¹ The first 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063 adopted in 2015 covers the period 2014-2023.

² The Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Development Data was approved by the UN Commission on Statistics at its 48th session in March 2017 and by the UN GA in September 2017. It has six strategic areas: strategic data coordination and leadership, innovation and modernization of national statistical systems, strengthening of core statistical activities and programs, dissemination and use of sustainable development data, creation of multi-stakeholder partnerships and resource mobilization.

³ Current commitments would lead to an increase in global average temperature of more than 3°C over the pre-industrial era.

⁴ The Migration Pact is a global agreement developed to effectively manage international migration in all its dimensions, for the benefit of all States and communities and, at its core, the rights of all migrants.

II- Implementation and monitoring Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDOs)

7. Three years after the adoption of Agenda 2030, progress has been made towards achieving some of the objectives and targets set out therein, but the implementation pace of this ambitious program is not yet optimal, and progress is uneven across countries and regions. As stated in the 2018 United Nations SDO report⁵, many challenges remain, including the persistence of many pockets of poverty in rural areas, increased food insecurity, limited access to water⁶, sanitation and electricity, rapid urbanization, discrimination against women, rising temperatures and natural disasters and increased conflict and migration flows. The decoupling of economic growth from environmental management is not yet effective. The level of official development assistance (ODA) and South-South cooperation is still far from sufficient to allow for a satisfactory implementation of Agenda 2030.

8. On another level, appropriation of SDGs by key stakeholders, including local communities, the private sector, the scientific community, NGOs, youth, women and other groups, is still insufficient. It is essential to review institutional systems to ensure that they are able to address SDG implementation in a multi-sectoral and systemic manner with the support of all stakeholders.

Sub-regional meeting on SDG implementation in North Africa (Rabat, 26-27 June 2018)

9. The sub-regional meeting on SDG implementation in North Africa was held in Rabat (Kingdom of Morocco) on 26 and 27 June 2018, at the initiative of ECA's Office for North Africa and in partnership with the General Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU).

10. The overall objective of the meeting was to provide a forum for discussion and exchange to take stock of progress, challenges, good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of SDGs in North Africa. ECA presented the results of its first report on SDG implementation in Maghreb countries (Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria)⁷. This report focuses on six themes of importance to countries and priority interest for regional integration: food security (SDG2), energy transition (SDG7), industrialization (SDG9), youth and women's employment (SDG8), climate change (SDG13) and desertification (SDG15). It also discusses the role of regional cooperation in SDG implementation, before providing guidelines to accelerate SDG implementation in Maghreb countries.

11. Two priority themes for the sub-region were further developed in working groups. These are employment and food security. Employment discussions highlighted key challenges and opportunities. Challenges include limited technological sophistication and slow industrialization, brain migration, insufficient consideration of women and youth in job creation strategies, inadequate education and vocational training systems in relation to labor market needs, insufficiently attractive business environment, under-developed entrepreneurship, prominence of the informal sector and lack of gender policy integration in employment policies. Opportunities for sustainable job creation were highlighted in particular via the social and solidarity economy, PPPs to finance local projects and programs to support young people in setting up businesses.

⁵ This report presents data on progress towards the achievement of sustainable development goals worldwide and in different regional groups.

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2018/TheSustainableDevelopmentGoalsReport2018-FR.pdf>.

⁶ On 21 December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution (A/RES/71/222) "International Decade for Action on Water and Sustainable Development (2018 - 2028)".

⁷ The publication will soon be available on the website of the ECA North Africa Office www.uneca.org.

12. The Food Security Working Group analyzed the food security situation and characteristics in North Africa, where the current prevalence of undernourishment ranges from 3.5% to 25.6% depending on the country and where demand growth exceeds production growth. The group made a number of recommendations including:

- Take stock of food security policies;
- Re-think agricultural policies, promote public investment and encourage small-scale agriculture;
- Improve subsidy targeting and move towards fair food prices;
- Promote strategic sectors such as fisheries;
- Enhance coherence between agricultural, energy, water resources management and trade policies;
- Strengthen the sector's adaptability to climate change and develop warning systems;
- Engage more partnerships between North African countries using existing complementarities;
- Use opportunities offered by regional programs/ projects that are attracting renewed interest from development partners.

13. Four round tables were also organized around the following subjects:

- Inclusive institutional governance of SDGs;
- Integration of SDGs and policy coherence;
- Financing and budgeting mechanisms;
- Indicators and data for monitoring SDGs.

14. At the end of the meeting, the following global recommendations were adopted:

- Broaden and strengthen appropriation of SDGs and Agenda 2063 at all levels;
- Strengthen the capacities of civil society and develop modalities that promote their institutional involvement in SDG implementation;
- Support SDG consideration in strategic sectors through via an integrated and inclusive approach taking into account the three pillars of sustainable development and synergies between SDGs;
- Strengthen the technical and financial capacities of national statistical systems and organize a regional training workshop on indicators and calculation methodologies for the benefit of national statistical institutes;
- Promote collaboration between statistical offices in countries of the sub-region;
- Develop a regional SDG profile based on an agreed set of indicators for the sub-region, identify disparities between countries and make recommendations to reduce them.

15. While progress was made in many areas, socio-economic inequalities persist at several levels, including exclusion of young people and women from the labor market (33% of young people are unemployed), gender inequalities, marginalization of certain territories and disparities in access to basic services such as education, health and social protection. The meeting also mentioned risks related to food security, increased hydric stress and destruction of some ecosystems as a result of climate change.

Fourth session of the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development – 2018

16. The African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD)⁸ is an intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder forum that reviews progress, shares experiences, lessons learned and provides recommendations in the form of key messages to accelerate implementation of Agendas 2030 and 2063 as well as the Addis Ababa Action Plan on Development Finance. These messages serve as Africa's collective regional contribution to the High Level Policy Forum (HLPF) meeting annually in New York.

17. The Economic Commission for Africa organized the fourth session of the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD) in Dakar from 2 to 4 May 2018, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNEP, UNDP, UNFPA, FAO, UNCTAD and UN Women. This fourth session was chaired by Senegal, replacing Togo.

18. The ARFSD aligned itself with the HLPF theme of "Transformation for sustainable and resilient societies" and selected SDGs for 2018. The following sub-themes relating to these SDGs were examined in parallel sessions:

- Drinking water and sanitation (SDG 6);
- Affordable clean energy (SDG 7);
- Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11);
- Sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12);
- Life on Earth (SDG 15);
- Strengthening implementation capacity and partnership for sustainable development (SDG17).

19. A special session was devoted to voluntary national reviews. In 2018, 9 African countries⁹ out of a total 46 willingly submitted their voluntary national reports to the 2018 HLPF. Several countries (Togo, Senegal, Morocco, Benin, Cape Verde, Mali...) presented their experience and challenges encountered in preparing this report. Major challenges include: broadening the understanding of SDGs to all stakeholders, strengthening monitoring and reporting capacities, setting up multi-stakeholder consultation mechanisms, localizing SDGs and lack of funding. Best practices were also highlighted, such as the institutionalization of an annual conference on SDGs bringing together all stakeholders (Senegal), the launch by civil society of a "Leave no one behind" study to be included in the national report (Senegal) or the production of an alternative report annexed to the government report (Benin), the revision and launch of new surveys to meet the needs of SDGs (Morocco), SDG modelling using the T21 model (Senegal) or the general balance model (Morocco).

20. African countries registered to present their voluntary national SDG reviews were previously able to exchange experiences, ideas and initiatives at the regional preparatory workshop for voluntary national reviews, organized by IDEP in March 2018. During this meeting, they discussed presentation formats for national reviews and proposed a

⁸ The ARFSD was established in 2015 by Resolution 930 (XLVIII) of the Eighth Joint Annual Meeting of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the Economic Commission for Africa.

⁹ Guinea, Mali, Togo, Senegal, Egypt, Sudan, Niger, Namibia and Cape Verde.

blueprint to be followed before the High-Level Political Forum, in consultation with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Challenges were highlighted, including data collection, indicator calculation, capacity building of national statistical institutes, institutional support for SDG and Agenda 2063 monitoring processes, synergies between departments involved, knowledge and use of integration tools, etc....

21. During the ARFSD, ECA presented main findings of the "2018 Report on Sustainable Development in Africa", a joint publication of ECA, AfDB, AUC and UNDP. A session was devoted to progress made and lessons learned in implementing AU Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. Similarities and particularities between both Agendas were highlighted. Both agendas are aligned at 85% at the level of objectives, 79% at the level of targets and 86% at the level of indicators.

22. The various tools developed to facilitate SDG integration into policy were discussed, including MAPS¹⁰ and RIA¹¹ (common approaches developed by the United Nations Development Group to facilitate the integration of SDGs into public policy). French-speaking participants wanted these tools to be translated into French and disseminated at country level. The African Union and ECA have developed a planning framework and a monitoring and reporting system common to both agendas¹². The purpose of these frameworks is to facilitate a harmonized integration of both agendas into national development plans and to ensure unified reporting. Several countries have already benefited from ECA support.

23. The issue of data availability for SDG monitoring was discussed and major constraints identified (large number of indicators to be reported, disaggregation of data, lack of coordination between statistical producers, lack of financial resources and limited capacity). ECA initiated a capacity assessment of several countries to produce indicators and a statistical improvement program was defined.

24. Discussions highlighted constraints faced by countries in implementing agendas 2063 and 2030. Among these are the following:

- Institutional mechanisms for coordinating SDG implementation and monitoring;
- Engagement process for civil society and the private sector;
- Promoting the role of the academic community in SDG implementation;
- How to factor in local issues? How to translate selected SDGs at national, regional and local level?
- Data availability and indicator information;
- Need to strengthen the capacities of local actors.

25. The Forum's recommendations were made as key messages aimed at accelerating implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063 objectives. These messages constitute Africa's collective regional contribution to the High-Level Political Forum (9-18 July 2018, New York). The fifth session of the ARFSD-2019 will be held in Morocco.

¹⁰ MAPS : Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support

¹¹ RIA : Rapid integrated Assessment

¹² The common monitoring and reporting framework includes a set of 63 indicators, 17 of which are specific to Africa and 7 of which are not relevant to SDGs.

High-Level Political Forum (New York, 9-18 July 2018)

26. The High-Level Policy Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform for monitoring and reviewing Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Convened and hosted by the Economic and Social Council, HLPF-2018 was held from 9 to 18 July in New York under the theme "Transforming to sustainable and resilient societies". The following SDGs were discussed in detail: 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17.

27. The technical segment focused on reviewing progress and challenges in the implementation of the six SDGs via round tables. Countries made substantial progress in the area of renewable energy and the fight against deforestation. Deforestation has slowed down and both the surface and the number of protected areas are increasing globally, particularly in Africa. Biodiversity loss however, remains a critical issue. Regarding SDG 11, it was recommended to develop human rights-based housing policies and to pay more attention to the most vulnerable.

28. During the political segment, the voluntary national reviews presented by 46 countries (including Egypt and Sudan) provided an opportunity to share good practices, challenges and lessons learned in SDG implementation. A summary of the main messages from the voluntary national reports is available on the HLPF website¹³.

29. Tangible efforts were made to integrate sustainable development goals into national development plans and strategies and identify priority targets. Some countries have established high-level institutional structures to manage and monitor SDGs. Challenges include the availability of high-quality, up-to-date, reliable and disaggregated data and the need to modernize and strengthen national statistical systems. Another equally important challenge are the mechanisms to be put in place to create synergies between SDGs - given their integrated, indivisible and universal nature - and to strengthen policy coherence. Finally, the issue of financing remains unresolved, particularly for countries with large debts and sub-optimal tax systems. It is necessary to mobilize internal resources, better connect existing funding to priorities and remove barriers to private investment. An assessment of SDG implementation costs and priority targets was undertaken by some countries.

30. The regional round table provided an opportunity for the United Nations regional economic commissions to review Agenda 2030 implementation. It allowed a better understanding of regional trends, challenges and progress in implementing Sustainable Development Goals across different regions. In Africa, inequalities have not decreased despite economic growth and the continent still suffers high levels of extreme poverty and unemployment. Africa also remains inherently vulnerable to climate change and is experiencing high rates of degradation and depletion of land, forests and biodiversity resources. Several African countries have adopted green economy strategies, but transition to responsible consumption and production patterns remains a real challenge. Further efforts are needed on inclusion and decent employment.

31. At the end of the Forum, Member States almost unanimously adopted (despite opposition from the United States and Israel) a ministerial declaration¹⁴ emphasizing the need to intensify efforts and increase partnerships and inclusive financing for SDGs. Recommendations included strengthening public-private partnerships, technology, innovation and data collection.

¹³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018>.

¹⁴ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018>

32. One of the avenues proposed by the UN Secretary-General to boost Agenda 2030 is to mobilize the transformative power of youth. Accordingly, during the United Nations General Assembly of September 2018, a new United Nations youth strategy was officially launched.

33. With regard to financing, the United Nations General Assembly (September 2018) organized a high-level meeting on financing for sustainable development to review progress at the international and national levels.

34. In 2019, the HLPF will meet under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly and review the quadrennial World Report on Sustainable Development. A high-level dialogue on financing for development is also planned.

11th meeting of the High-Level Group on Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building in the Field of Statistics for Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 (HLG-PCCB)

35. The HLG-PCCB was established by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 46th session in March 2015. It is made up of 22 members¹⁵, representing national statistical offices, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Planning, which co-chairs it with the Central Office of the Republic of Hungary. The main mission of this group is to direct, in consultation with national statistical institutes, capacity-building initiatives to address priority short and long-term requirements and to suggest mechanisms conducive to a rational and coordinated distribution of funding sources.

36. The Office of the High Commissioner for Planning of the Kingdom of Morocco organized, jointly with the United Nations Statistics Division, the 11th meeting of the High-Level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity Building in the Field of Statistics relating to the Sustainable Development Program (HLG-PCCB), held from May 8 to 10, 2018 in Rabat.

37. The meeting was attended by representatives of National Statistical Institutes from 35 countries, observers from international and regional agencies and representatives of the United Nations Statistics Division, responsible for organizing the UN World Data Forum.

38. Objectives of the meeting were to review progress in the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan¹⁶, which serves as a framework for planning, evaluation and statistical capacity-building for Agenda 2030, to prepare the second edition of the United Nations World Data Forum¹⁷, to be held in Dubai in October 2018, and to study funding mechanisms to support the SDG implementation measurement framework.

39. Principal outcomes of the meeting are as follows:

- Review of the funding framework and implementation of the Global Data Action Plan: The secretariat was requested to follow up with donor countries led by the United Kingdom on the mobilization of financial resources; explore the possibilities of organizing a side event with donor countries at the High Level Political Forum; explore the feasibility of an early meeting with the

¹⁵ Members of the group are: the Statistical Commission of Africa (Angola, Senegal, Rwanda, South Africa); the Statistical Commission of West Asia (Morocco, Iraq, Palestine); the Statistical Commission of Asia and the Pacific (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu) and the Statistical Conference of the Americas (Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname) and the Conference of European Statisticians (USA, Hungary, Italy, Denmark, Switzerland).

¹⁶ The Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Programme Data was approved by the UN Statistical Commission at its 48th session in March 2017 and by the UN GA in September 2017.

¹⁷ The World Data Forum is a platform that aims to enhance cooperation between national statistical offices, managers of geospatial information and technologies, scientists, government representatives, intergovernmental organizations and civil society. The First United Nations Global Data Forum met from 15 to 18 January 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa.

donor group; and follow up on the representation of the High Level Group and the secretariat to the task force on funding. Experts also recommended that the PARIS21 evaluation document be integrated into the funding framework after the Dubai Forum (2018).

- The Second World Data Forum (Dubai Forum): Experts worked on preparing the final High Level Group document for presentation at the Forum and a team¹⁸ was set up to finalize it. The final document should be available no later than 12 October 2018 before the start of the Forum scheduled for 24 October 2018.
- Partnership mechanisms: It was agreed that partners can be invited according to the issues on the agenda and their areas of expertise. PARIS21 was asked to be included as a permanent partner in the HLG-PCBB group.
- Organization of the 2nd United Nations World Data Forum (UNWDF): Experts asked the Secretariat to follow up on organization with the host country. A timetable was therefore drafted to enable the Secretariat to collaborate on the provisional agenda and program with both the host country and the High-Level Group (HLG).
- Organization of the 3rd United Nations World Data Forum in 2020: The experts instructed the Secretariat to respond to Rwanda's request to host the meeting in 2020; provide a comprehensive status of all submissions received and make a pre-selection of 2 or 3 countries. A final decision on who will host the 3rd Forum is to be published on 24 October 2018 at the Forum in Dubai.

40. At the end of the meeting, the experts discussed the next meeting of the HLG-PCCB and future activities: It was decided to organize two meetings of the HLG-PCCB in 2019. One in the spring and a second in the fall. Vanuatu requested to host one of the meetings. A rotation of HLG-PCCB members was also proposed for both meetings in 2019. New members are to be integrated into the group's work. The Secretariat is responsible for exploring funding options for member countries' meetings participation.

¹⁸ The team includes: Argentina, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Argentina, Myanmar, Palestine, South Africa, and Switzerland.

III- Implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement: Main decisions of COP 23 (2017) and challenges of COP 24 (2018)

41. The Paris Agreement (PA) entered into force on 04 November 2016. It was ratified by 168 countries (end 2017) including all 28 Member States of the European Union, accounting for more than 80% of global emissions. Russia (7% of global emissions) has not ratified the PA and the United States decided to withdraw in June 2017. The agreement will take effect in 2020, as the "Kyoto Protocol" comes to an end¹⁹.

42. The 2017 UNEP report on global climate action stressed that emission reduction commitments by 2025 or 2030 (national contributions), voluntarily submitted by States to COP21, should raise the global temperature by more than 3°C by 2100, whereas the PA's objective is to contain this temperature increase to a range of 2°C to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels. The report recommends strengthening action before 2020, encouraging governments, territories, cities, businesses and civil society to change their behavior and take immediate, rapid and multidimensional action. Failing this, the risk is a substantially higher cost of subsequent general transition to a low emission economy.

43. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) confirmed that 2015, 2016 and 2017 were the warmest years the world has ever known. Carbon dioxide concentrations continue to increase, exacerbating the risks of heat waves, floods, droughts and forest fires, with serious consequences for socially vulnerable and marginalized groups.

44. The latest IPCC special report on the consequences of a global warming of 1.5°C confirms that climate policies implemented since 2015 are not sufficient to stabilize global warming at 1.5°C. It stresses that the effects of a 1.5°C warming will particularly impact vulnerable populations, agriculture, coastal cities and small island developing states.

45. The fight against climate change is closely linked to sustainable development goals. If the effects of climate change are not controlled, countries' ability to achieve the objectives set for 2030 may well be undermined. The UN Secretary General will convene a climate summit in September 2019 to strengthen ambitions regarding the Paris Agreement.

Principal decisions of COP23 (6-17 November 2017, Bonn)

46. COP 23 took place in Bonn under the chairmanship of Fiji. It initiated the process of developing a handbook of technical rules and procedures for the operationalization of the Paris Agreement.

47. The handbook to be finalized at the upcoming COP24 intends to set the rules for making national contributions transparent and comprehensible including in particular the definition of a monitoring mechanism and a timetable for the review of contributions, ideally every five years. The Paris Agreement provides for a first global assessment in 2023 and the creation of a control committee.

48. Key results of COP23 included:

- The decision to organize a facilitation dialogue (Talanoa dialogue) between parties to the United Nations Climate Convention in 2018 to analyze collective progress in reducing carbon emissions and to prepare for the next round of scaled up national contributions, scheduled from 2020 onwards;
- Confirmation that the Adaptation Fund will serve the Paris Agreement;
- The adoption of a gender action plan;
- The establishment of a working group (formed for 3 years) on agriculture, food security and climate change;

¹⁹ The Kyoto Protocol was never ratified by the United States, China and India.

- The establishment of a platform on indigenous peoples' knowledge and know-how.
- The launch of the "Powering past coal" initiative, a coalition committed to stopping all coal-based electricity production by 2030.

Stakes of COP24 (04 to 13 December 2018, Katowice - Poland)

- Finalize and adopt the guidelines of the Paris Agreement Implementation Handbook;
- Hold the "Talanoa dialogue" to draw up a collective carbon emissions assessment and commit all countries to scale-up carbon emission reduction commitments before 2020;
- Review the IPCC special report on the implications of a 1.5°C temperature increase;
- Promote financing for climate change:
 - A definition of climate finance should be adopted to facilitate the monitoring of financing provided by developed countries to developing countries, in line with the commitment to allocate an additional \$100 billion annually by 2020;
 - An increase in funding for adaptation.
- Organize a dialogue of experts on the issue of loss-and-harm.

IV- The Global Pact on Migration

49. By adopting the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in September 2016, United Nations Member States committed themselves to developing and adopting a global pact for safe, orderly and regular migration. This pact aims to enhance coordination on the multidimensional issues of international migration and to provide a comprehensive framework for international cooperation in the field of migration and human mobility and all aspects of international migration.

50. The Global Pact lays out a set of principles, commitments and agreements among Member States on international migration issues, is integrated into the Sustainable Development Agenda for 2030 and aims to respond directly to target 10.7 of Agenda 2030, in which Member States commit themselves to cooperate at the international level to facilitate safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.

The global consultation process

- **Phase I - International consultations (April to November 2017)**

51. The preparatory process for adoption of the Global Pact for Safe and Orderly Migration was launched in April 2017. A number of thematic, national and regional consultations were held to gather views, good practices and innovative proposals to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration.

- **Phase II - The International Meeting of Mexico in preparation for the International Conference for the Adoption of the Global Pact (December 2017)**

52. Mexico hosted the preparatory meeting of the International Conference for the Adoption of the Global Pact from 4 to 6 December 2017. The meeting was attended by more than 400 delegates representing 136 countries and international organizations. The meeting provided an opportunity to take stock of the Global Pact's development process and to review all information, data and recommendations collected during the thematic, sub-regional and regional consultations to jointly develop a vision for the Global Pact on Migration.

- **Phase III - Intergovernmental negotiations on the Global Pact for Migration (February to July 2018)**

53. Based on the outcome of the Mexico meeting and the report of the United Nations Secretary-General with practical recommendations for the Global Pact, intergovernmental negotiations²⁰ were held at United Nations Headquarters from February to July 2018. These led to the publication of a final draft of the Global Pact to be discussed and adopted at the United Nations General Assembly Intergovernmental Conference to be held in Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018.

54. ECA and the African Union Commission (AUC) provided technical support to the African Group participating in these discussions. Also, ECA, IOM and the AUC jointly organized a regional consultative meeting in Addis Ababa on 22 June 2018, in which co-facilitators and representatives of African embassies based in Addis Ababa as well as representatives from Addis Ababa-based regional economic communities and members of the High Level Group, participated.

55. The regional consultative meeting took place in plenary with the following objectives:

- Provide co-facilitators with an opportunity to inform African ambassadors and embassy representatives of progress in ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the Global Pact for Migration;
- Enable Global Pact co-facilitators and African ambassadors to exchange information on the perspectives and realities of migration in Africa;
- Provide a forum for participants to discuss and offer contributions on issues relevant to the Global Pact.

56. African Member States received clarification on implementation and review processes for the Global Pact and on financing mechanisms.

The African consultation process

- ***Establishment of the High-Level Panel on Migration for Africa***

57. The High-Level Panel on Migration for Africa was established in April 2016, at the joint conference of Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning of the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. The Panel, made up of 15 eminent members²¹ and chaired by Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of Liberia, provides policy guidance and support to policy discussions on international migration in Africa.

²⁰ The two co-facilitators of the global process are the ambassadors and permanent representatives of Mexico and Switzerland to the United Nations.

²¹ Members are representatives of member countries from the North and South, organizations such as the ECA, the African Union and the African Development Bank, etc.....

58. Key objectives of the Panel are to enable Africa to use the issue of migration to advance continental development through international cooperation and to establish a common position on challenges related to migration and human mobility on the continent.

59. The last meeting of the High Level Panel, held at the headquarters of the Global Organization for Migration in Geneva on 28-29 May 2018, adopted the following core recommendations:

- The panel's report should focus on economic aspects of migration. Data collection must be expanded to address the lack of detailed and disaggregated data needed to perform an economic cost-benefit analysis on African migration;
- The panel's report should include key messages on the human rights of migrants (including access to identity documents, nationality rights, etc.);
- Civil society in Africa should be consulted to contribute to the panel's report;
- The Panel should focus on advocacy and analysis of policies and programs (economic, social, ecological) to better understand the reasons why Africans leave their countries of origin;
- The Panel should focus its actions on operationalizing the recommendations of the Global Pact.

60. The High Level Panel will meet again in October 2018 to assess progress in producing the report, the main conclusions of which will be presented and discussed at the parallel session to be organized in conjunction with the Global Migration Pact.

- ***ECA's contribution and support to the work of the High-Level Panel on Migration in Africa***

61. The Panel is supported by a technical committee chaired by the Economic Commission for Africa. Its primary function is to provide advice and support to Panel members on issues related to their core functions. The Technical Committee is responsible for implementing the panel's policy decisions and coordinating efforts to implement its plans.

62. ECA, in collaboration with the Panel Chair, provides the technical secretariat and assists the High-Level Panel in conducting multiple consultations at the national, continental and global levels, interacting with a wide range of stakeholders, including members of African civil society, diaspora groups, migrant organizations, the private sector, African Member States and other development partners.

- ***African Regional Consultative Meeting on the Global Pact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration***

63. As part of regional consultations for the development of the Global Pact on Migration, the Economic Commission for Africa, in partnership with the African Union Commission and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), organized the African Regional Consultative Meeting on the Global Pact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 26 and 27 October 2017. As a preliminary step, ECA organized consultations in each of the five sub-regions of the continent, involving member States and stakeholders, with contributions from experts as a means of launching the continental process. The sub-regional consultation for North Africa was held on 24 and 25 October 2017, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the sidelines of the African meeting.

64. Principal recommendations from this last consultation for North African countries are summarized as follows:

- Harmonize intra-regional and intra-African migration policies and ensure they are not driven by external interests;
- Strengthen global cooperation on migration routes, including countries of origin, transit and destination, by harnessing the benefits of migration and the integration of migration into development agendas and SDGs;
- Strengthen global cooperation in Africa and beyond through the harmonization of migration policies in the sub-region and the integration of migration into development planning and the strengthening of national migration institutions.

65. Principal objectives of the African regional consultative meeting, attended by representatives of Member States, international and regional organizations, universities and civil society organizations from the continent, were:

- Review of sub-regional meeting results and identification of specific migration challenges and priorities for the continent;
- Formulation of attainable commitments and recommendations;
- Identification of means for implementation and monitoring mechanisms at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

66. Key recommendations of the regional consultative meeting are summarized as follows and structured around six main topics selected for the Global Pact:

1. Human rights for all migrants: Member States are encouraged to sign, ratify and implement the numerous conventions, treaties, declarations and principles on migrant human rights, such as the African Union Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons and the draft African passport.
2. Factors of migration: Member States are encouraged to address the root causes of migration and ensure that populations enjoy genuine mobility rights.
3. International cooperation and migration governance: Member States are encouraged to establish regional relationships and adapt migration policies to facilitate mobility and migration between Member States (within and between regional unions) and to protect the rights of migrants.
4. Contributions of migrants and Diasporas: Countries agreed that regular migration has a positive impact on countries' development by promoting the flow of knowledge and ideas, encouraging trade and investment. The contribution of migrants and Diasporas to economic growth and development in countries of origin and destination should therefore be well studied and recognized.
5. Smuggling of migrants, trafficking in persons and contemporary forms of slavery: Countries agreed that smuggling and trafficking in persons are primarily the result of a lack of legal and secure migration opportunities. Effective measures need to be put in place to prevent this from happening, including through the analysis of its root causes.
6. Irregular migration and regular channels: Member States are encouraged to create more legal channels for migration in order to discourage illegal migration and exploitation of African migrants within and outside Africa. This includes setting up measures to ensure safe, orderly and regular labor migration while protecting the human and labor rights of all migrants.

67. Participants highlighted the alignment and complementarity of the Global Pact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration with the African Union Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons and the African Union Migration Policy Framework. Participants also agreed that a comprehensive approach is needed to address the multidimensional nature of migration and that improving data and knowledge should be at the heart of the global pact.

V- Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference

68. Trade is an integral part of Agenda 2030. Target 17.10 (means of implementation) aims to "Promote a universal, regulated, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the auspices of the World Trade Organization (WTO), including through the holding of negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda. Trade and WTO work are driving forces for sustainable and inclusive growth and development that create jobs.

69. The Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11)²² was held from 10 to 13 December 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was chaired by Argentine Minister Susana Malcorra and was held in a context of uncertainty with regard to globalization and stalemate in the Doha agenda, marked by the protectionism of some world powers and the proliferation of mega-regional trade agreements that may affect the multilateral trade negotiation system.

70. Held every two years, Ministerial Conferences are key moments in the life of the WTO. During these Conferences, Member States try to agree on revisions to the rules governing international trade. The last two Ministerial Conferences, held in Bali in 2013 and Nairobi in 2015, culminated in the conclusion of a Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), in force since 22 February 2017, and an agreement on the elimination of agricultural export subsidies.

71. MC11 opened with the signing of a Presidential Statement²³ aimed at strengthening WTO's foundations to fully play its role and enhance the effectiveness of the multilateral trading system, including its dispute resolution mechanism.

72. In their interventions in plenary, Ministers recognized the important role of the WTO in promoting economic growth, employment and development, and reaffirmed the principles and objectives set out in the Marrakech Agreement. They also acknowledged the fact that the system is not perfect and that it is essential to strengthen commitments to improve it.

73. The Conference ended with several ministerial decisions, including the integration of developing member countries and least developed countries into the international trading system, the establishment of a working group for the accession of South Sudan, the adoption of a work plan on small economies to facilitate their integration into the multilateral trading system, a work program on electronic commerce (a new issue) and a decision on fishing subsidies the objective of which is to reach, by the next ministerial meeting, a global agreement-banning subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing.

²² The Ministerial Conference, attended by Trade Ministers and other senior officials from the 164 members of the Organization, is the supreme decision-making body of the WTO.

²³ The statement was signed by the President of Argentina, Mr. Macri, the President of Brazil, Mr. Temer, the President of Paraguay, Mr. Cartes and the President of Uruguay, Mr. Vázquez, as well as by representatives of Colombia, Guyana, Mexico, Peru and Suriname.

74. The Conference also agreed to continue work on agriculture (market access and export competition, domestic support and holding public stocks), market access for non-agricultural products, trade in services, investment facilitation (an emerging issue) and TRIPS.

75. Several parallel activities were organized, including a parliamentary conference, a business forum and a symposium on trade and development. These activities broadened the scope of the Ministerial Conference to include business, civil society and academia.

76. Other highlights of the Conference included publication of the Buenos Aires Declaration on Women and Trade and launch of the "Enabling E-commerce" Initiative.

VI- The African Continental Free Trade Area

77. Regional trade agreements are an essential element of international trade relations. At the 18th Extraordinary Session of the African Union Summit held in Kigali on 21 March 2018, 44 African countries signed the agreement establishing the Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA), while a total of 50 countries signed the Kigali Declaration, affirming their commitment to implement this agreement, which aims to double intra-African trade by eliminating non-tariff and tariff barriers on goods and services. In addition, 27 countries also signed the African Union Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, which complements ACFTA by providing for the abolition of visas, the right of residence, the right to do business and the right to establish professional institutions for nationals of signatory countries.

78. In his speech, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, who chairs the African Union, said that "ACFTA is the result of a vision set out nearly 40 years ago in the Lagos Plan of Action, adopted in 1980", of a single market on a continental scale. He also acknowledged the leading role of regional economic communities in promoting African integration.

79. For his part, Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, thanked ECA for its support during the two-year negotiations. He added: "The giant that is Africa cannot wake up if the continent is divided. We must hasten our pace, because international competition leaves no room for the weak". He called on member states to also sign the Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, which should lead to the creation of an African passport.

80. ECA Executive Secretary Vera Songwe urged member States to ratify ACFTA quickly, reiterating that the agreement only enters into force once ratified by 22 countries. She added that the signing of ACFTA only marks the end of the first phase of negotiations, stressing the need for effective implementation. The ACFTA Business Country Index²⁴, launched by ECA at the Summit, is one of the tools for monitoring ACFTA implementation. It assesses countries on a number of areas: implementation of ACFTA; trade facilitation; trade for development; SDGs and Agenda 2063 and finally the impact of ACFTA.

81. ECA believes that ACFTA has the potential to increase intra-African trade by 52.3% by eliminating tariff barriers and to double the volume of trade if non-tariff barriers are also removed (ECA, ARIA 2017²⁵).

82. Success of the future African Continental Free Trade Area depends on increasing production on the continent to capitalize on the enormous opportunities offered by the African market, which is expected to reach US\$3.6 billion by 2025. Additionally, ACFTA will increase trade in manufactured goods (African economies are too dependent on raw material exports). Intra-African trade in manufactured goods has already reached 60% for

²⁴ The index will be based on periodic surveys of the private sector, be it informal cross-border traders or large corporations. These surveys will be complemented by an analysis of public data, including tariff schedules and trade volumes.

²⁵ State of regional integration in Africa VIII.

SADC. Indeed, ACFTA will help African companies realize economies of scale and create supply chains that enable the continent to reduce its import bills, particularly for industrial inputs.

83. The African Continental Free Trade Area will create a single market of 55 African countries. With a population of 1.2 billion people, expected to reach 2.5 billion by 2050, or 26% of the world's working-age population, ACFTA will be the largest free trade agreement in the world. Among main beneficiaries of ACFTA will be small and medium-sized enterprises, accounting for 80% of the region's businesses; women, accounting for 70% of informal cross-border traders; and young people, expected to benefit from new employment opportunities.

Broad conclusion: key messages to accelerate achievement of SDGs

84. Progress in achieving SDGs is both too slow and uneven. The pace of reforms is not fast enough in relation to the multiple interrelated challenges of SDGs and the involvement of key stakeholders (local authorities, the private sector, academia and civil society) remains largely insufficient. In the area of climate change, the key issues are related to defining the rules for implementing the Paris Agreement, scaling up commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening the financing of climate action, with a focus on adaptation policies. In terms of intra-African trade and integration, the continental free trade area is still awaiting ratification by most of signatory countries to the Agreement, including North African countries. To enter into force, ACFTA needs to be ratified by 22 countries.

85. Below are some areas to be targeted in order to accelerate achievement of SDGs:

- Strengthening knowledge and appropriation of SDGs by citizens, key stakeholders and institutions;
- Identifying national priority targets for SDGs and integrating them into public, sectoral and local policies;
- Strengthening and adapting governance systems;
- Improving policy coherence through analysis and consideration of interactions between sectoral policies;
- Diversifying financing options and adopting innovative mechanisms and instruments to mobilize internal and external financial resources;
- Optimizing the use of available financial resources through the prioritization of investments and the development of a strategic and integrated approach to planning and financing;
- Improving statistical capacity;
- Strengthening partnerships with companies to develop technologies that support the achievement of SDGs.

Important upcoming events in 2019

- United Nations Climate Summit under the aegis of the UN Secretary General, to strengthen ambitions around the Paris Agreement (September 2019);
- Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (Argentina, March 2019);
- High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (September 2019)
- International Renewable Energy Conference (CIER) organized by REN21²⁶ (Seoul, 2019).

²⁶ REN21 is a non-profit association affiliated to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), which publishes an annual report on the state of renewable energy in the world.