

UN Economic Commission for Africa Strategic Direction and Plans

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Outline of the Presentation

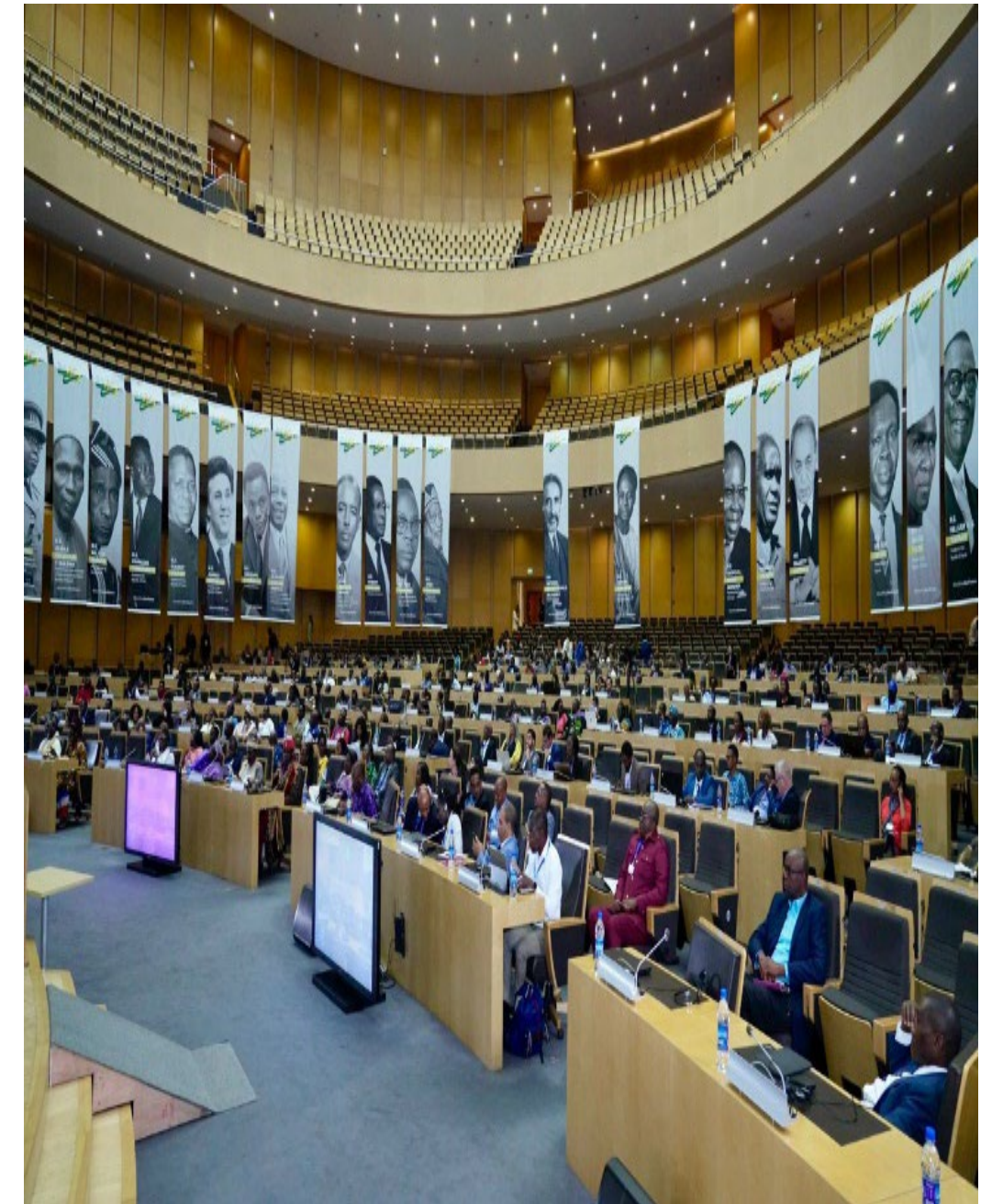
1. Mandate
2. Vision, mission, and overall objective
3. Strategic directions and core functions
4. Efforts to accelerate SDGs implementation
5. The need for agility: efforts to accelerate SDGs and be a UN that is fit for purpose
6. UN Reforms
7. ECA's Strategic Focus Areas
8. SRO's value proposition
9. 2026 Programme Plan and Budget (PPB) – SRO-NA
10. Partnerships
11. ECA on the web and social media

1. Mandate: the starting point for programming

- Established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN) in 1958.
- Made up of 54 member States called the Commission.

ECA's Primary Mandate is:

- to promote the economic and social development of its member States, foster intra-regional integration, and enhance international cooperation for Africa's development. Derives from ECOSOC resolution 671 A (XXV).
- to play a dual role as a regional arm of the UN and a key institution in the Africa's regional development landscape. One of the pillar institutions of Africa's regional development including AUC, AfDB and ECA.



2. ECA's Vision, Mission, and overall Objective

VISION

IDEAS FOR A
PROSPEROUS AFRICA

MISSION

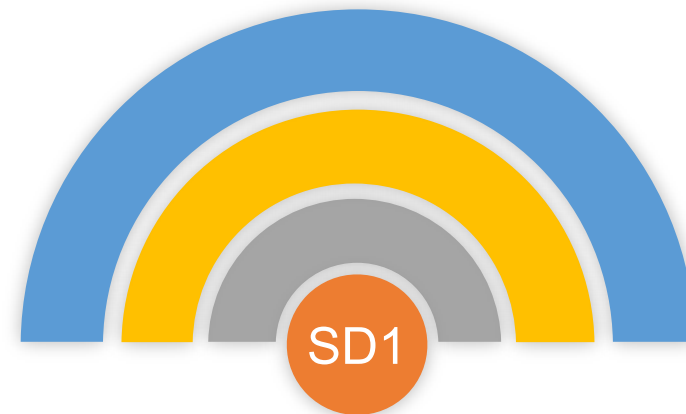
DELIVER IDEAS &
ACTIONS FOR AN
EMPOWERED,
INCLUSIVE &
TRANSFORMED AFRICA

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

PROMOTE INCLUSIVE &
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
ACCELERATING THE
ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION
& STRUCTURAL
TRANSFORMATION OF AFRICA
IN LINE WITH 2030 AGENDA
AND AGENDA 2063.

3. Strategic Directions and Core Functions

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS (SD)



FORMULATE
Policies for the
transformation of Africa

SD2

SD4

INTEGRATE
Regional and subregional
transboundary initiatives

BUILD
Capacity to foster
local responses

DESIGN
Innovative models

SD3

SD5

ADVOCATE
The African common position at the
global level and develop regional
responses

CORE FUNCTIONS

THINK-TANK

*Conducting multisectoral
policy-oriented research and
analysis and promote peer
learning, innovative thinking
and advocacy*

CONVENING

*Providing dedicated regional
intergovernmental and multi-
stakeholder platforms with
strong ownership by member
States, regional bodies and
development banks*

OPERATIONAL

*Providing policy advice,
technical advisory
services, and capacity
development at the
national, sub-regional and
regional levels*

4. ECA's work is anchored into global and continental agendas

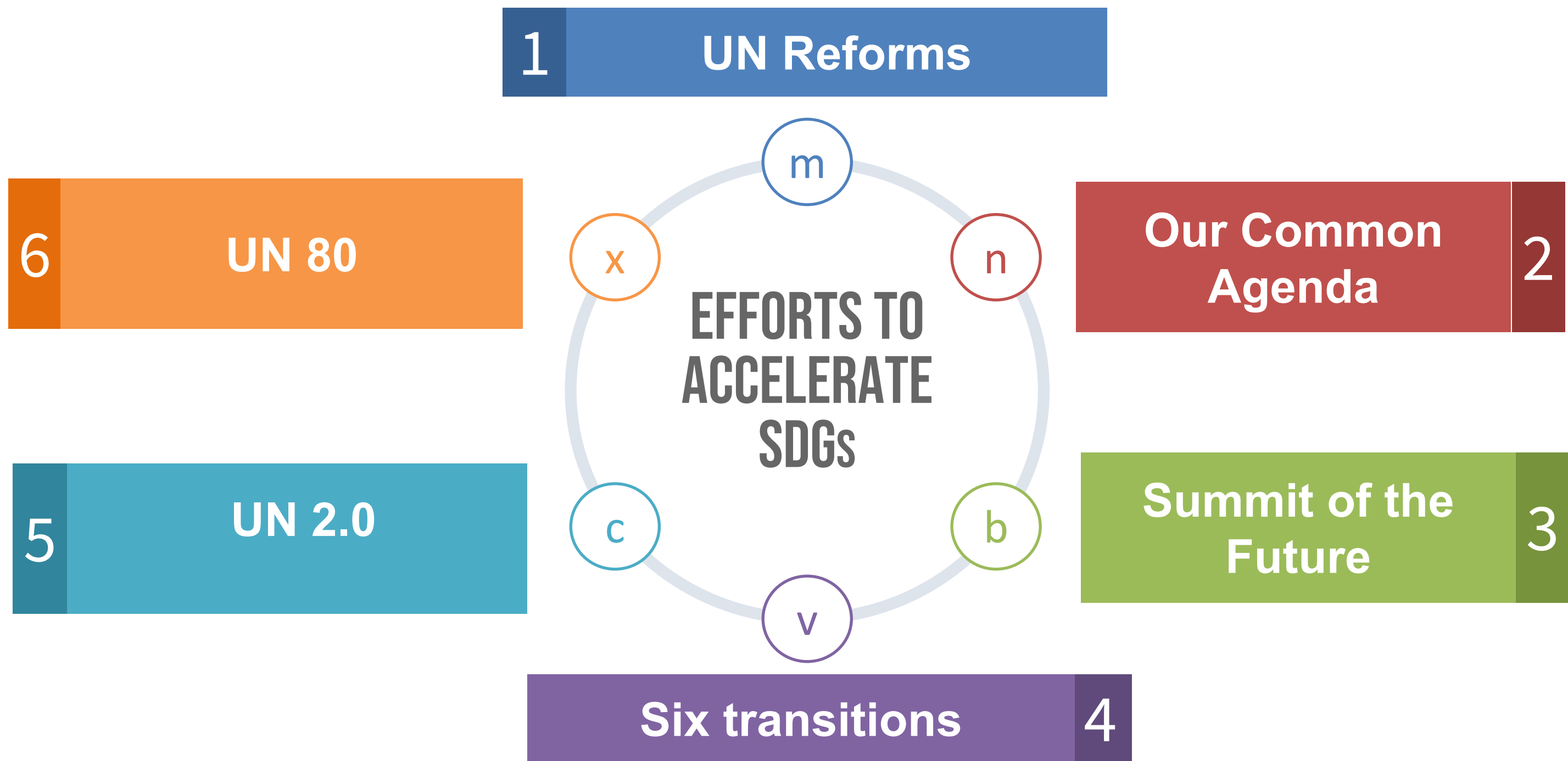
TWO AGENDAS



ONE FRAMEWORK FOR INTERVENTION

- ❑ AU-UN Joint Framework on the Implementation of both Agendas
- ❑ Second ten-year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 (2024-2033)

5. The need for agility: efforts to accelerate SDGs and be a UN that is fit for purpose



6. UN REFORMS



1. Development reforms
2. Peace and security architecture
3. Management reforms

7. Our Common Agenda, Summit of the Future and Pact for the Future



► **2015**
2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda is agreed by UN Member States as a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity and peace outlined through 17 Sustainable Development Goals and related targets.



► **2020**
UN75 Declaration

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Member States issued the UN75 Declaration that included 12 overarching commitments along with a request that the Secretary-General report back to the General Assembly with recommendations to address current and future challenges.



► **2021**
Our Common Agenda (OCA)

The Secretary-General responded to this call with Our Common Agenda to speed up implementation of the SDGs and address strategic gaps in global governance. It called for a Summit of the Future to forge a new global consensus on multilateral solutions to current and future challenges.



► **2022**
Modalities Resolution 76/307

Having welcomed the submission of Our Common Agenda, the General Assembly passed a resolution in 2022 (A/RES/76/307) to hold the Summit of the Future on 22-23 September 2024. The resolution decides that the Summit will adopt a concise, action-oriented outcome document entitled “A Pact for the Future”.



► **2023**
Policy Briefs

To support Member States in their deliberations for the Pact, the Secretary-General provided proposals in 11 policy briefs, deepening ideas initially laid out in the Our Common Agenda report.



► **2024**
Pact for the Future

The Pact for the Future was adopted on 22 September 2024 at the Summit of the Future. The Pact includes a Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations as annexes.

8. PACT FOR THE FUTURE

PACT FOR THE FUTURE

- Culmination of a years-long process to adapt international cooperation to the realities of today and the challenges of tomorrow.
- Ensures that international institutions can deliver in the face of a world that has changed dramatically since they were created.
- Strong statement of countries' commitment to the United Nations and its Charter, the international system and international law.
- Most wide-ranging international agreement in many years, covering both new areas and issues on which agreement had not been possible in decades.
- Clear commitments and deliverables on sustainable development and financing, peace and security, digital cooperation, youth and future generations and global governance.
- Each chapter and the annexes also include concrete actions related to human rights and gender equality as cross-cutting issues.
- There is a commitment to review overall implementation of the Pact at the beginning of the 83rd General Assembly session (2028).



Annexes

Global Digital Compact

Declaration on Future Generations

UN 2.0

Forward-thinking **culture**
and cutting-edge **skills**
for better United Nations
system **impact**

The UN 2.0 vision is firmly
focused on driving internal
change as stronger internal UN
system capabilities will result in
better programmatic and
operational support to Member
States and faster collective
progress towards the SDGs

Central to achieving the vision
of UN 2.0 is a quintet of modern
skills that have tremendous
potential to enhance the work
of the UN



UN 2.0
Quintet
of Change



Common
Agenda

Quintet of change summary: shifting United Nations system skills and culture to turbocharge support for the Sustainable Development Goals

SHIFTING, NOT ADDING

Recalibrate, retrain and
realign expertise – along each
organization's own path

50+

United Nations system
organizations*

100,000

United Nations system
colleagues[†]

162

countries and territo-
ries with United Nations
country teams*

4,000

United Nations system
locations*

UPGRADING SKILLS, ADAPTING CULTURES

Become proficient in twenty-first century skills, enabled by
a forward-thinking culture



UN 2.0
Quintet
of Change



Behavioural science
Enabling better
choices



Data
Building impactful
data ecosystems



Digital
Becoming fluent
in digital impact



Strategic foresight
Learning to navigate
uncertainty



Innovation
Learning to scale
new solutions



Culture
Nurturing foundations
for change

RESULTING IN



A MODERN UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

United Nations entities fit for
the future and able to respond
to the complex challenges of
the twenty-first century



ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR MEMBER STATES

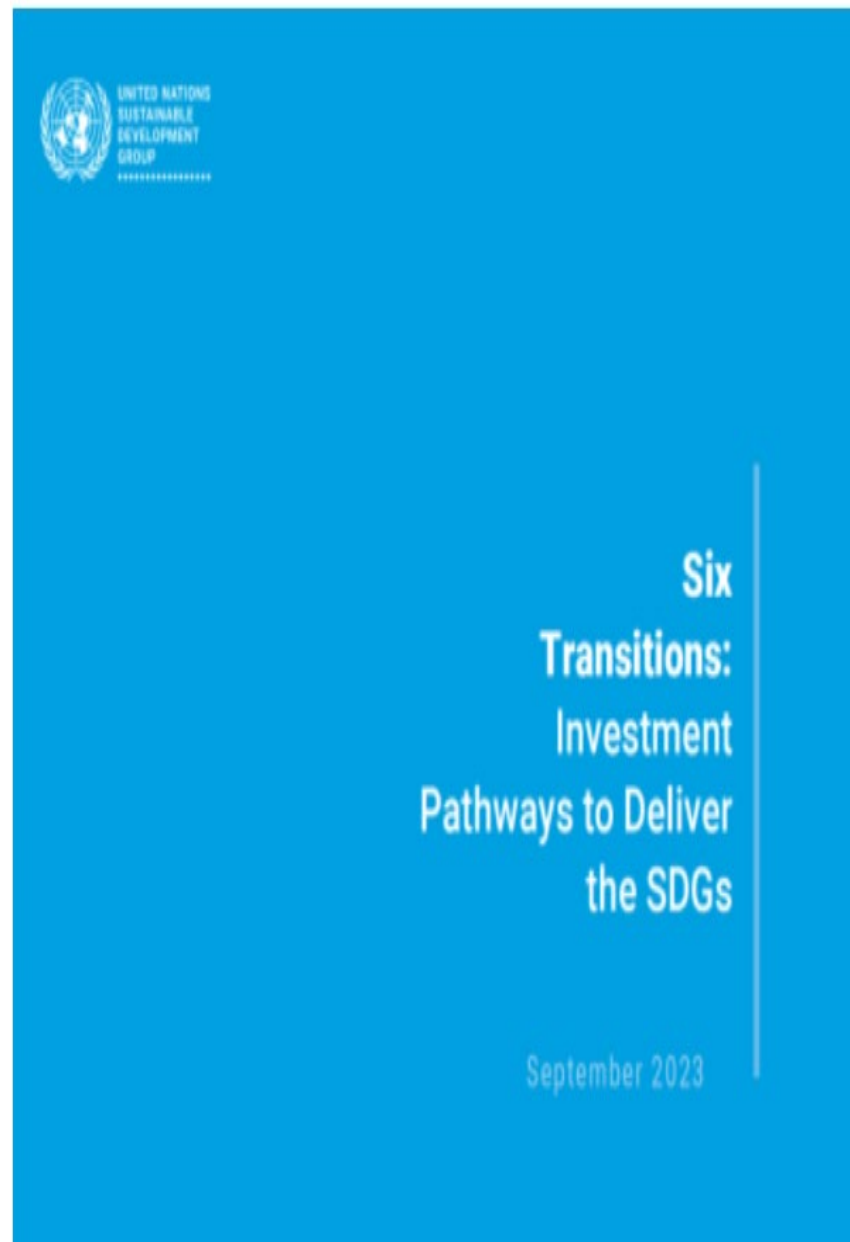
United Nations entities can
support Member States in
advancing new skills, strate-
gies and solutions, everywhere



TURBOCHARGED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS PROGRESS

United Nations entities and Member
States are equipped to put the world
on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda

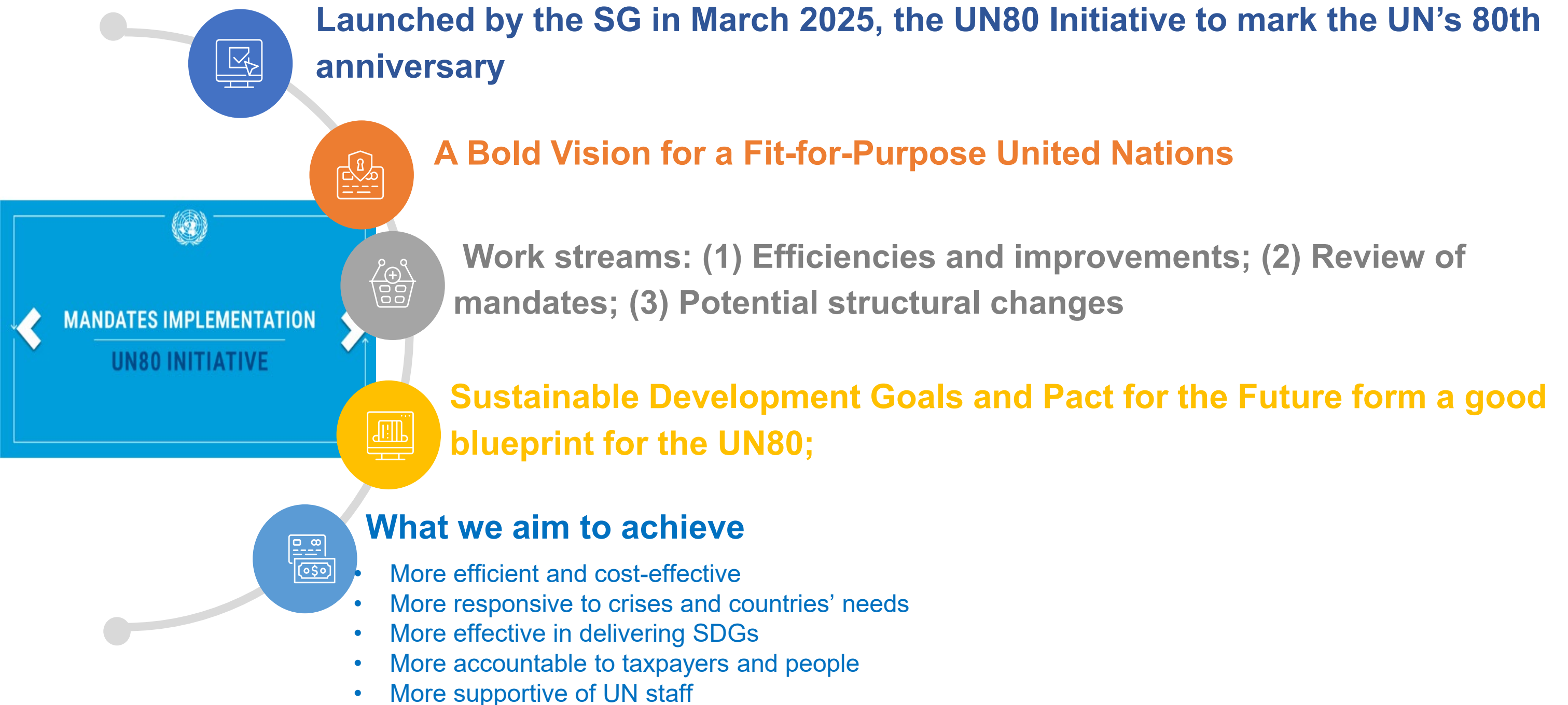
10. SIX TRANSITIONS



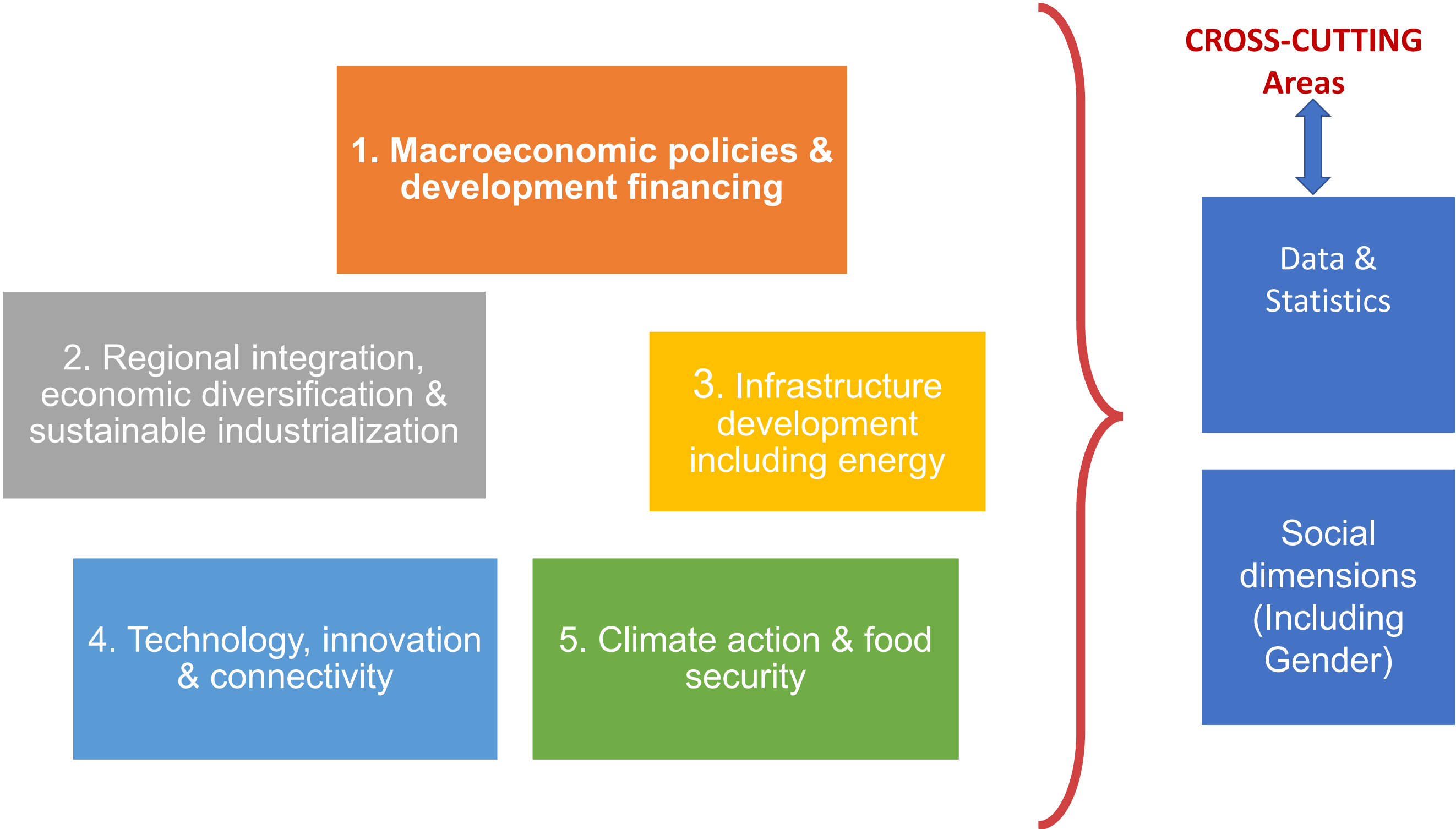
Transformative entry points or key transitions that can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs.

- (1) Food systems:** Transform agriculture, fisheries, and food production to ensure nutritious diets for all, while protecting ecosystems and reducing emissions.
- (2) Energy access and affordability:** Shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources, improving energy efficiency and providing clean energy access to all.
- (3) Digital connectivity:** Harness digital technologies to boost innovation, inclusion, and equitable growth, while closing the digital divide.
- (4) Education:** is about modernizing education to create future-ready, empowered citizens who can drive the sustainable development agenda forward.
- (5) Jobs and social protection:** Create decent jobs, ensure fair wages, and expand social protection systems to reduce inequality and enhance human well-being.
- (6) Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution:** Drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect biodiversity, and ensure ecosystems can sustain future generations.

11. UN 80: Transforming the UN for impact



12. ECA's CURRENT STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS




13. Some initiatives under the strategic focus areas

Strategic Focus Area	Initiatives
Macroeconomic policies & development financing	Formulation of macro-economic policies, macro-economic modelling, development planning, Integrated Planning and Reporting Tool (IPRT) innovative financing, economic governance, tax reforms and administration, debt management, reform of the global financial architecture
Regional integration, economic diversification & sustainable industrialization	Support on the AfCFTA, industrial policies, regional value chains, derisking investments, trade modelling, review of investment policies and regulatory frameworks, review of country’s competitiveness, Country Business Index
Infrastructure development including energy	Resilient and tech-enabled infrastructure that facilitates trade, competitiveness and industrialization especially of transport (road, rail and air), and energy
Technology, innovation & connectivity	Digital transformation, Artificial Intelligence, enhancing the capacity of girls and women on digital literacy, and application of technology to production, industrial development and social service delivery
Climate action & food security	Climate financing, carbon markets, climate information services and data, capacity development for team of African Climate negotiators, natural resources management and governance, land use and food security
Data & Statistics	Civil registration and vital statistics, e-census, trade and value-added statistics, natural Capital Accounting, geospatial data, application of AI technology to data management
Social dimensions	Job creation and employment, access to social protection, regional cooperation in social policy, and sustainable financing of social policy, women and youth empowerment


14. The value that SROs, including SRO-NA, bring

Operate across Africa's five subregions: Serve as decentralized arms of ECA. They bring proximity, responsiveness, and contextual relevance.

 **Purpose:** Translate continental aspirations into tangible national results.

 **Value of Presence** - On-the-ground understanding of subregional dynamics. Quick response to emerging national and regional needs. Ensure ECA's policy and technical work reflect local realities.


 *"Proximity drives relevance and responsiveness."*

 **Strengthening Alignment** - Foster coherence between national plans, RECs' priorities, and continental agendas thus promoting integrated policy responses to shared challenges.


 **Outcome:** Enhanced policy coordination and consistency.

 **Building Institutional Capacity** - Provide tailored technical assistance and capacity-building support.


 **Result:** Stronger national systems and decision-making capacity.

 **Facilitating Dialogue and Learning** - Act as subregional knowledge and coordination hubs. For example, they organize **ICSOE** meetings, encourage peer exchange, knowledge sharing, and collaboration.

 **Value:** Create spaces for innovation and partnership.

 **Generating Knowledge for Action** - Produce subregional profiles, data analyses, and policy briefs. They translate research into actionable insights for policymakers.

 **Impact:** Informed decisions, better outcomes.

 **Bridging Global to Local** - Support domestication of **Agenda 2063** and the **SDGs**, thus aligning national, subregional, and continental priorities Reinforce accountability and focus on results.

 **Outcome:** Tangible national impact from global and continental commitments.

15. 2026 Programme Plan and Budget (PPB) – SRO-NA

- **Objective for SRO-NA:**

- To advance inclusive growth and sustainable development in North Africa through strengthened economic diversification, fiscal management, regional integration, and a better recognition of migrant workers' economic contributions.

- **Planned results for SRO-NA:**

- **Result 1:** Developing evidence-based policies and actions that leverage migrants' economic contributions
- **Result 2:** Members of ECA mobilize finance for sustainable development
- **Result 3:** Members of ECA accelerate inclusive and sustainable growth through increased productivity, diversification, and value addition



16. Partnerships are key

- ☐ African Union, its agencies, and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), e.g, AMU
- ☐ The Regional Development Banks- AfDB and AfreximBank
- ☐ UN agencies at the global, regional, and national levels (including the RCOs/UNCTs)
- ☐ Member-states
- ☐ Other multilateral development banks, such as BADEA and the World Bank, etc.
- ☐ Private sector and civil society organizations, including youth groups and women's associations
- ☐ Academia and think tanks
- ☐ Development partners (donors)

17. Get Connected: ECA on Web and Social media



<http://www.uneca.org/>



https://x.com/ECA_OFFICIAL



<https://www.facebook.com/EconomicCommissionforAfrica>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/unecaVideo>



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/96044621@N08/>



Thank You