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Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
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Summary of the report on the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals

I. Progress on the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty

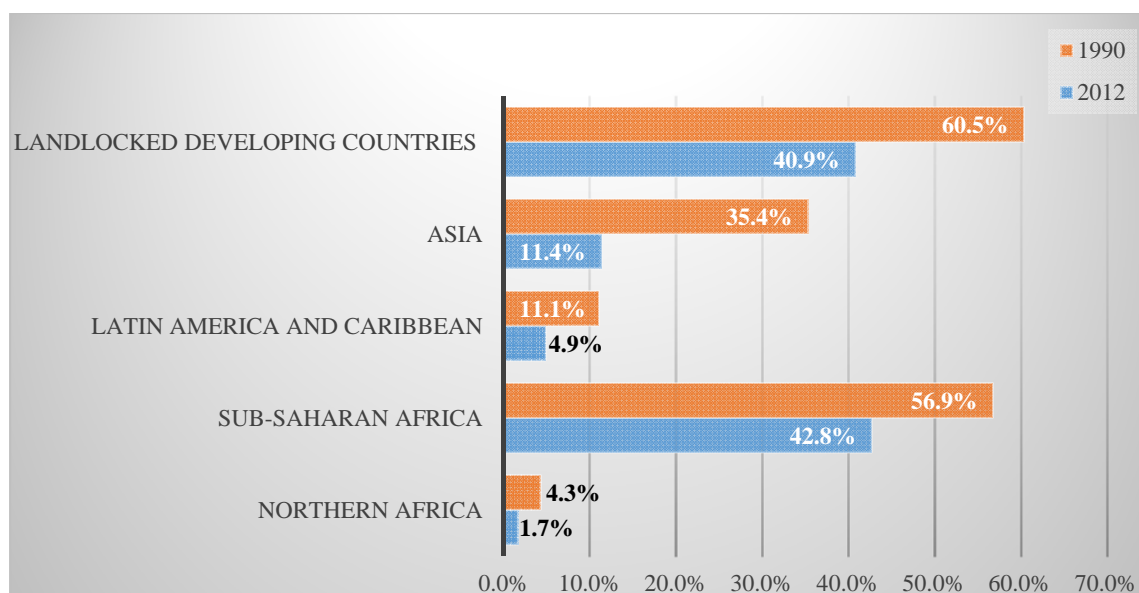
Poverty rates are down, but the absolute number of poor people has increased

Extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa has declined from 56.9 per cent in 1990 to 42.8 per cent in 2012, while North Africa has achieved a 60 per cent reduction in poverty over the same period. However, despite this decline, there are still many more poor people on the continent today than there were in 1990: 389 million people lived in poverty in 2012 compared to 280 million in 1990, owing to Africa's rapid population growth.

On balance, there has been notable progress in most countries compared to 1990 levels, with 7 countries having met the poverty target by 2012 and at least 14 countries close to reaching the target over the same period. Assuming no major set-backs, almost half of African countries would most likely have met the poverty target by 2015.

Figure 1

Proportion of the population living below US\$ 1.25 per day (purchasing power parity)



Source: United Nations Statistics Division (2014)

Substantial progress on reducing hunger from initial levels, but the path to food security is fraught with risks

Despite persistently high levels of hunger, significant progress has been made in all regions of Africa with the exception of North Africa, whose relatively low rates have remained virtually unchanged since 1990. The classification of sub-Saharan Africa in the Global Hunger Index¹ has improved from “extremely alarming” to “serious”. The Sahel and the Horn of Africa subregions have the highest levels of hunger, with Global Hunger Index scores of 33.4 and 29.7 respectively, followed by the Great Lakes subregion (27.7), Southern Africa (27.5) and West Africa (25.8). The greatest progress towards reducing hunger and malnutrition has been observed in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, which recorded reductions of at least 20 per cent. Compared to the rest of Africa, North Africa has maintained moderate hunger levels since 1990, with Global Hunger Indices as low as 13.6 between 1990 and 2015.

Africa’s unemployment and under-employment challenge persists

Africa’s strong growth has largely been on the back of resource-commodity booms. While this has generated significant fiscal revenues for most countries, unfortunately due to the capital-intensive nature of the sector, this has not transformed the natural resource wealth to other forms of capital nor generated jobs.

Africa has very high unemployment and under-employment rates, especially among young people. The overall unemployment rate for the continent is 12 per cent, with the highest unemployment rates in Southern Africa (18.0 per cent) and North Africa (13.9 per cent). Youth unemployment rates are even higher, averaging 21.08 per cent, with young women particularly affected.

Decent employment opportunities are difficult to find in Africa. Vulnerable employment accounts for up to 80 per cent of total employment, especially in

¹ The Global Hunger Index is a multidimensional statistical tool used to describe the state of countries’ hunger and nutrition situation. To reflect the multidimensional nature of hunger, the index combines four component indicators of undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality into one index. The index ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst, although neither of these extremes is reached in practice

West, East and Central Africa, with higher levels for women than men in all regions.

High levels of inequalities undermine efforts at poverty reduction

Inequalities in sub-Saharan Africa are second only to Latin America. Poverty tends to decline much faster in economies with relatively lower income inequalities and more diversified economic structures than in enclave economies. Africa's mean Gini coefficient² stands at 0.43, whereas for non-African developing countries the average Gini coefficient is 0.39. Sub-Saharan Africa alone had an average Gini coefficient of 0.44 in 2015, a little higher than the continental average, with countries in the Southern and Central African subregions pushing the regional average up.

² The Gini index measures the extent to which the distribution of income (or, in some cases, consumption expenditure) among individuals or households within an economy deviates from a perfectly equal distribution. The Gini index is expressed as a percentage of the maximum area under a line. A Gini index of 0 represents perfect equality, while an index of 100 implies perfect inequality.

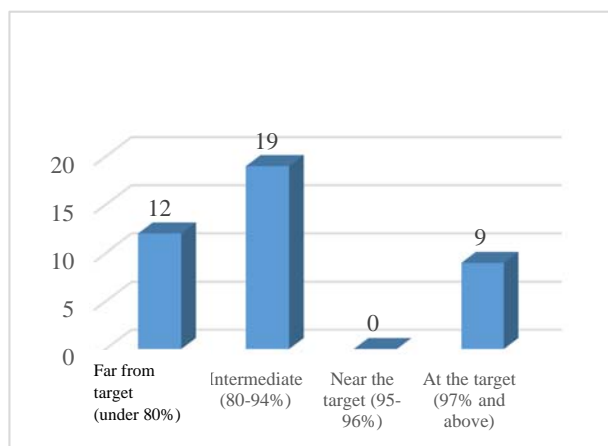
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Africa has made significant progress in achieving Goal 2, although progress has been uneven among countries. In 2013, 9 out of 40 countries with data achieved the target, while 19 other countries were close to achieving the target (i.e. 80-94 per cent annual net enrolment rate).

Six countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mozambique, the Niger and the United Republic of Tanzania) increased net enrolment ratios by over 30 percentage points.

Figure 2

Distribution of countries by distance to the net enrolment target rate, 2013



Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2015)

Africa's progress on this indicator has been supported by substantial public investments in primary education, the implementation of policy frameworks that promote access to education opportunities, especially for underprivileged girls and children, and the mobilization of civil society and the international donor community. In particular, investments in road infrastructure to enable children to get to school more quickly and easily have had the greatest impact on education access. On the demand side, school feeding programmes, scholarships for girls, the abolition of school fees, cash transfers to poor households and curricula reforms to cope with the special needs of particular communities have all contributed to the expansion of access to education.

Gender disparities in enrolment

Despite country variations, progress in narrowing the gender gap has been impressive in terms of both net primary enrolment and completion rates. However, improvements in youth literacy have been slow for a number of countries.

Better primary school completion rates but the quality of education remains a concern

In 2013, 21.43 per cent of African countries with data (including Algeria, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritius, Morocco, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Tunisia) achieved the target of full completion in primary education. Meanwhile, 11.90 per cent were at intermediate level while 66.6 were far from meeting the target.

Nevertheless, the evidence points to poor education quality in a number of African countries. For instance, African countries perform poorly in international student assessments. In 2011, the two countries (Tunisia and Morocco) which participated in the international mathematics assessment of

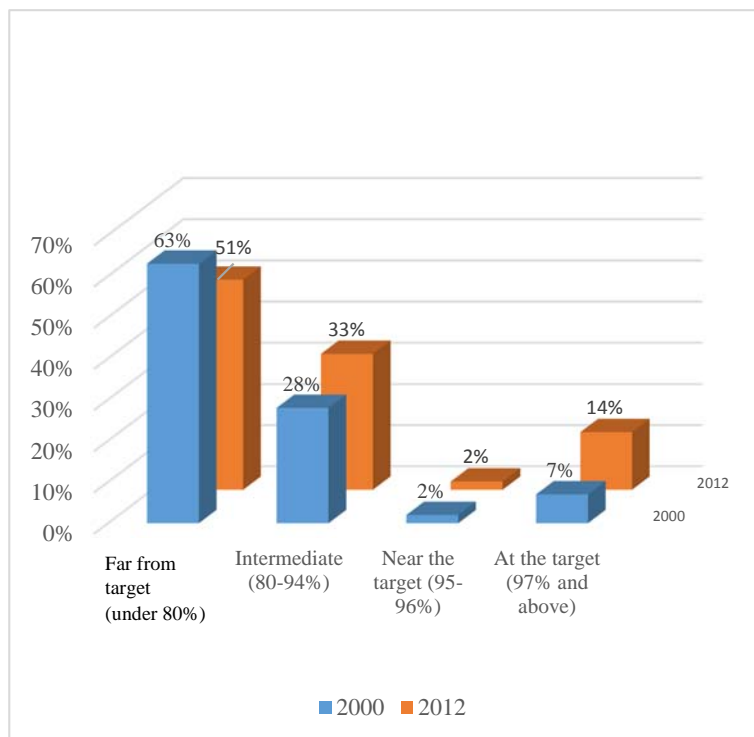
fourth-grade pupils carried out by Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) were ranked 49th and 51st out of the 52 participating countries. Furthermore, the average pupil-to-text book ratio is very low in sub-Saharan Africa, at just one handbook for every three pupils.

Slow but steady increase in literacy rates

Literacy rates have improved slowly but steadily in Africa. The number of countries that have met the target doubled between 2000 and 2012. Fourteen per cent of African countries have a literacy rate of 97 per cent or more. Meanwhile, there has been a decline in the proportion of countries that have a literacy rate of less than 80 per cent.

Figure 3

Progress towards the literacy target



Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (2015)

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Women’s representation in national parliament is on the rise

The representation of women in the political sphere, including parliaments, cabinet positions and presidency, is rising in Africa. In 1990, women’s representation in national parliament averaged 9.1 per cent. By 2015, this figure was 15.1 per cent. Nevertheless, the continent remains well below the 30 per cent target.

In some countries, the shift in numbers coincided with rigorous implementation of gender-sensitive constitutional quotas (e.g. Burundi and Algeria), while in others such as Seychelles high representation of women resulted from its history of openness, with women traditionally playing a key role in public affairs. Improvements in educational attainment of women is also a contributing factor to women’s empowerment. For instance, the literacy gap between men and women declined from 10 percentage points in 2000 to 6 percentage points in 2012.

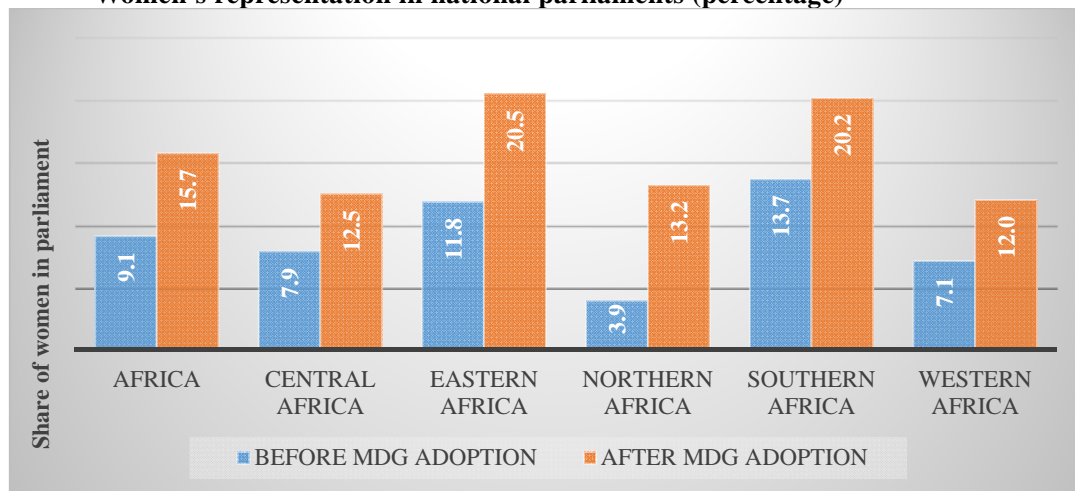
Growing gender parity in school enrolment rates

By 2013, two African countries had reached the gender parity index of 1 at primary level, while the ratio of girls exceeded that for boys in eight countries. In the 1990s, there were on average 86 girls for every 100 boys enrolled; this figure increased to 96 in 2013.

Gender parity at the secondary and tertiary levels, however, remains a challenge, owing to the high dropout rates for girls due to cultural norms that favour the progression of boys over girls.

Figure 4

Women's representation in national parliaments (percentage)

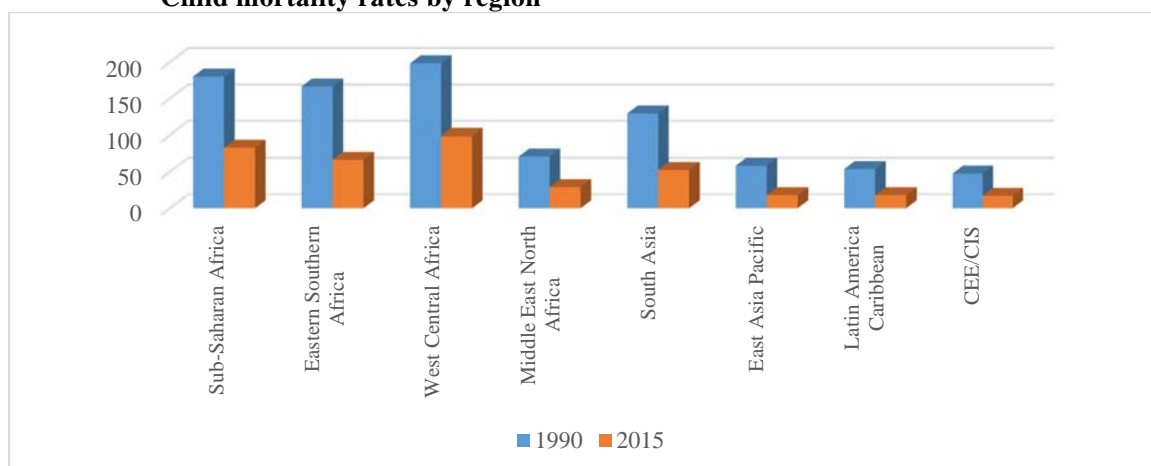


Source: United Nations Statistics Division (2015)

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Africa witnessed unprecedented declines in child mortality during the Millennium Development Goals implementation period. The under-five mortality rate in sub-Saharan Africa declined from 180 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 83 in 2015. There was also an acceleration in the decline in the rate of child mortality in 34 African countries. The decline was particularly rapid in North Africa, where the rate fell from 73 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 24 in 2015. Similarly, infant mortality rates showed steep reductions throughout Africa over the same period.

Figure 5
Child mortality rates by region



Source: United Nations Statistics Division (2015)

Immunization and declining malaria mortality have been key to reducing child mortality

Some of the biggest gains in child survival in sub-Saharan Africa have been achieved through increased childhood immunization, even in countries with weak health systems. The decline in malaria-related deaths has accounted for 20 per cent of the decline in child mortality in the region. Many countries have rapidly increased their malaria prevention coverage, with greater use of insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spraying and intermittent presumptive treatment for pregnant women. Treatments for acute respiratory infections and diarrhoea, two of the most fatal childhood diseases, have also improved considerably in the region.

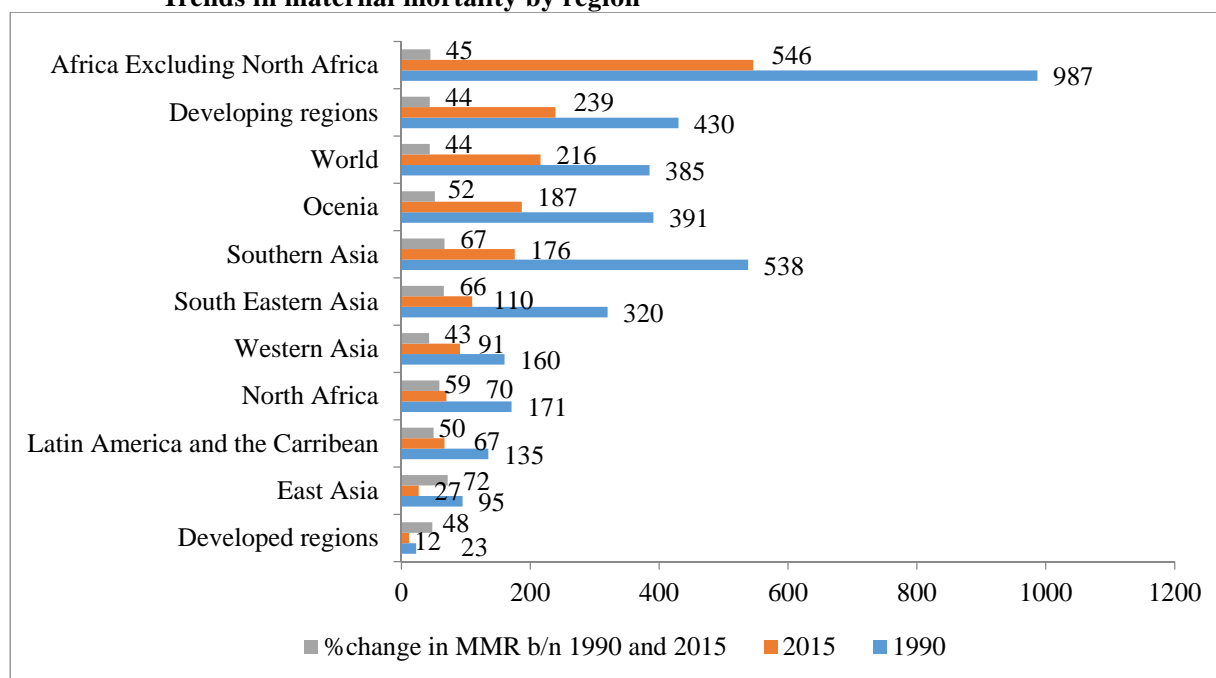
Goal 5: Improve maternal health

No region met the maternal mortality target

All regions of the world experienced considerable reductions in maternal mortality between 1990 and 2015, although the magnitude of the reduction differed substantially between regions (see figure 6). However, no region achieved the target of reducing maternal mortality by 75 per cent by 2015. The highest decline was observed in Eastern Asia (72 per cent), followed by Southern Asia (67 per cent), South-eastern Asia (66 per cent), North Africa (59 per cent), Oceania (52 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (50 per cent), sub-Saharan Africa (45 per cent) and Western Asia (43 per cent).

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for two thirds (66 per cent) of all maternal deaths per year worldwide. Nineteen African countries had maternal mortality rates of over 500 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015. Sierra Leone is estimated to have the highest mortality rate globally, at 1,360 maternal deaths, based on 2015 figures. The two countries with the highest estimated lifetime risk of maternal mortality are Sierra Leone and Chad, with an approximate risk of 1 in 17 and 1 in 18 respectively.

Figure 6
Trends in maternal mortality by region



Source: United Nations Statistics Division (2015)

Access to skilled health-care workers, contraceptives and antenatal care reduces maternal deaths

Declines in maternal mortality rates between 1990 and 2015 can be attributed in part to the fact that a higher proportion of births were attended by skilled health personnel, higher contraceptive prevalence rates, and better antenatal care coverage. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in Africa increased from 45 per cent to 71 per cent between 1990 and 2014, although this remains relatively low by global standards. Africa also increased the contraceptive prevalence rate from 28 per cent in 1990 to 43.6 per cent in 2013. Antenatal care coverage for at least one visit also improved in all subregions of Africa.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Steep decline in HIV/AIDS in recent years

HIV incidence and prevalence rates in Africa declined faster over the one-year period of 2012-2013 than over the 11-year period of 2001-2012 combined. In sub-Saharan Africa, HIV/AIDS incidence rates declined 6.45 per cent in the period 2012-2013 as against a 4.95 per cent decline over the 2001-2012 period. The corresponding figures for HIV/AIDS prevalence rates were 2.22 per cent versus 1.91 per cent respectively. For North Africa, no change was recorded; the incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS remained low and constant at 0.01 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively over the same period.

Access to antiretroviral therapy has contributed to HIV/AIDS decline

Improvements in antiretroviral therapy coverage account in part for the positive trends in HIV/AIDS prevalence and incidence rates in Africa. Between 2009 and 2011, access to antiretroviral therapy in 14 African countries increased by at least 50 per cent, with 5 countries seeing an increase of over 100 per cent. In absolute terms, based on 2011 data at least 22 African countries had antiretroviral therapy coverage of over 50 per cent. Botswana, Namibia,

Rwanda, Swaziland and Zambia are the best performers in this category, with coverage above 80 per cent.

Improvements in the incidence of malaria and tuberculosis have reversed in recent years

Following a steady decline over the period 2000-2013 malaria incidence rose 1.3 per cent during the period 2013-2015. However, malaria-related deaths continued to decline, falling 29 per cent over the same period. However, unlike the rest of Africa, malaria incidence rates fell (27 per cent) in landlocked countries.

The gains in tuberculosis have also reversed in recent years. Following substantial declines over the period 2002-2012 the incidence (10.6 per cent), prevalence (0.32 per cent) and death rate (59.26 per cent) associated with tuberculosis have taken a turn for the worse in sub-Saharan Africa.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Carbon dioxide emissions in Africa are low but rising in most countries

Africa's carbon dioxide emissions continue to be negligible compared to the rest of the world; however, it appears that more than half of African countries experienced an increase in carbon dioxide emissions. Equatorial Guinea recorded the largest increase in carbon dioxide emissions. Notable exceptions include Libya and Gabon, which have substantially decreased their emissions. The majority of the carbon dioxide emanates from changes in land use.

Decreasing consumption of ozone-depleting substances

African countries have been successful in reducing their consumption of ozone depleting substances and complying with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. With the notable exceptions of Botswana, Gabon, Madagascar and Mauritania, all other African countries decreased their use of ozone-depleting substances between 2000 and 2013.

Slow progress in improving access to safe drinking water in Africa

The global target for access to safe drinking water was met five years ahead of schedule and exceeded the 2015 Millennium Development Goal target of 88 per cent. However, even though all African countries (except Algeria) have shown improvements in this indicator during the period 1990-2015, the continent did not achieve the target.

Slow increase in access to improved sanitation

The only developing regions to meet the sanitation target were the Caucasus and Central Asia, Eastern Asia, North Africa and Western Asia. Sub-Saharan Africa missed the target. The proportion of Africans with access to sanitation facilities increased marginally from 24 per cent in 1990 to 30 per cent in 2015. Only five African countries, namely Seychelles, Libya, Egypt, Mauritius and Tunisia, recorded over 90 per cent access to improved sanitation facilities in 2015. Out of 51 African countries with data available for 2015, 36 countries recorded below 50 per cent coverage in improved sanitation facilities.

Africa experienced a decrease in slum dwellers among the urban population

In Africa, the percentage of slum dwellers decreased from 70 per cent in 1990 to 65 percent in 2000 and subsequently to 55.2 per cent in 2014. However, sub-Saharan Africa remains the region with the highest prevalence of slums globally.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Africa's share of global trade is declining

The share of Africa's exports in global merchandise exports declined from 3.3 per cent in 2013 to 3.0 per cent in 2014. This decline is mainly due to the unfavourable movement in global commodity prices. Since the second half of 2014, commodity prices have fallen by more than 60 per cent, below even the levels seen during the 2008 global financial crisis.

Unfulfilled official development assistance commitments to Africa

Most Development Assistance Committee countries have not met their official development assistance (ODA) commitments to provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to developing countries. In 2014, only five countries – Sweden (1.1 per cent), Luxembourg (1.07 per cent), Norway (0.99 per cent), Denmark (0.85 per cent) and the United Kingdom (0.71 per cent) – continued to meet the ODA target. This number is unchanged from 2013. Total ODA reached only 0.29 per cent of the combined global GNI, leaving a gap of 0.41 per cent, on top of similar delivery gaps in previous years.

African least developed countries' share of total ODA is declining

As a proportion of the total, ODA disbursements to African least developed countries decreased from 79.5 per cent in 1990 to 73.5 per cent in 2000 and subsequently to 63.8 per cent in 2014. ODA disbursements to African small island developing States barely increased over the period 1990-2014, from \$321.3 million in 1990 to \$333.8 million in 2014, in current prices.

Although overall ODA to Africa is likely to remain at its current level over the period 2015-2018, least developed countries and other low-income countries will benefit most from future ODA, whose levels are expected to grow by 5.7 per cent in real terms.

II. Transitioning to the new global and regional initiatives

Africa did not meet most of the Millennium Development Goal targets, even as it prepared for the transition to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. The continent faces a two-pronged transition: a global-level transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the 2030 Agenda and a continent-level transition to Agenda 2063, a framework that consolidates new and existing regional initiatives such as NEPAD into a forward-looking transformational framework for Africa. How ready is the continent to manage both transitions?

Agenda 2063 can be traced to the fiftieth anniversary of the African Union, in 2013, when Heads of States and Government rededicated themselves to the pursuit of the pan-African vision. It is a long-term development framework that aims to materialize Africa's vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the world. Agenda 2063 is anchored by seven aspirations that are supported by corresponding goals, priority areas, targets, and strategies.

The priority areas of Agenda 2063 span the three dimensions of sustainability: economic, social and environmental. Structural transformation underpinned by industrialization is at the heart of the goals and targets relating to economic development. The social development priorities focus on health, education, water and sanitation, gender and social inclusion. The environmental priorities

focus on measures to address climate change and preserve and harness marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

Agenda 2030 is also anchored by the three dimensions of sustainable development, which are integrated in the 17 goals, 169 targets and 230 indicators of the initiative.

There is significant convergence between the two agendas, particularly at the level of the goals. Convergence is a result of the fact that the 2030 Agenda was informed by Africa's priorities, as encapsulated in the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda, which underpinned the negotiating position of the African group during their negotiation of the 2030 Agenda. In turn, Agenda 2063 builds on the elements and priorities of the common African position, hence several of the priorities in the 2030 Agenda are also reflected in Agenda 2063.

A. Challenges in the transition to the Sustainable Development Goals

A key implementation challenge for African member States will be the integration of both agendas into their national planning frameworks.

Coherent implementation monitoring and evaluation of both agendas requires an integrated set of goals, targets and indicators and a harmonized review and reporting platform. In the integration process, three categories of indicators emerge: indicators that overlap or are common to both agendas; indicators that are exclusive to Agenda 2063; and indicators that are exclusive to the 2030 Agenda. The challenge is how to address the non-converging sets of indicators. One possible option for the design of an integrated framework would be to aggregate core indicators from each of the three indicator categories described above.

1. Institutional arrangements

Successful implementation of both agendas will require an effective institutional architecture. Sustainable development requires an integrated and coordinated approach to problem-solving and policymaking. The role of planning agencies will be paramount in ensuring that the economic, social and environmental sectors of the economy work closely together to ensure that the three dimensions are reflected in all aspects of programme and project execution.

2. Aligning planning cycles with Agendas 2063 and 2030

The different timelines of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda raises questions about the operational compatibility between the two. Furthermore, the planning cycles of national long-term visions and medium-term frameworks are not always aligned with regional and global frameworks. In some cases, this could potentially delay the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.

Regarding the first point, it is important to note that although Agenda 2063 is a 50-year vision, it is operationalized through a series of 10-year implementation plans. The first 10-year plan of Agenda 2063 ends in 2023, so the bulk of the first two implementation plans of Agenda 2063 fall within the time period of the 2030 Agenda.

The more significant challenge is at the national level, where there is considerable variation in consistency between national planning cycles and regional and global cycles. In general, countries whose medium-term plans coincide with the commencement of the Sustainable Development Goals are better placed to align their new plans to the Goals and Agenda 2063.

3. Follow-up and review

Effective follow up of both agendas requires a multi-tiered follow-up architecture that spans continental, national and sub-national jurisdictions. Currently, there is no consensus on the system that will be responsible for tracking progress on both agendas in Africa.

Agenda 2063 calls for an annual African forum to review and take action based on progress reports; engage stakeholders to accelerate the realization of the Agenda; and identify best practices and champions to accelerate implementation.

The 2030 Agenda, meanwhile, calls on the regional commissions to support Member States in developing an appropriate forum for follow-up. In March 2015, the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development was mandated to follow-up on Agenda 2030 by a resolution adopted during the eight Joint Annual Meetings of Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning.

The burden of reporting by countries will be substantial if countries have to report on one set of regional indicators for the 2063 Agenda and another set for the Sustainable Development Goals. Adopting a single harmonized follow-up architecture for both agendas is therefore imperative.

4. Data challenges

Access to data will be vital for effective follow-up. The global indicators for Agenda 2030 have been classified into three categories: those for which data exists and there is an accepted methodology for data collection; those that have data but no commonly accepted methodology for data collection; and those for which there is no data. Similar challenges exist for the Agenda 2063 indicators, even though they have not been classified as such.

Addressing the data challenges will require a phased approach. One can conceive of a situation where only indicators for which a methodology for data collection exists and for which data is available will be monitored during the initial stages of implementation. In the interim, national statistics offices will require support in designing new methodologies, developing baseline estimates and compiling data where none exists.

In the light of the constraints and challenges enumerated above, it is remarkable to note that countries have taken steps to implement the new global and regional initiatives. The pace of transition varies by country and is generally faster for countries whose new planning cycle coincided with the adoption of the new agendas. The following section provides insights into how countries are preparing for implementation of both agendas.

III. Country experiences in the transition to Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda

Countries are at different stages of the process of integrating the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 into their national development planning frameworks. Those such as Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti and Ethiopia, whose planning cycle coincided with the commencement of the Sustainable Development Goals, are at a more advanced stage of the integration process. Others, like Kenya and Mali, are putting in place mechanisms for the integration process to smooth the transition to the new global agenda.

Ethiopia has taken steps to integrate the 2030 Agenda and the common African position into its second growth and transformation plan, which covers the period 2015-2019. The country is also integrating environmental sustainability, which

was originally captured separately in its climate resilient green economy strategy, into the new growth and transformation plan. The first phase involves the integration of climate resilient green economy indicators and targets into sectoral plans, while the second stage entails mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into sectoral and national plans.

In Ghana, the central planning agency is ensuring alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals through directives and guidelines that inform the preparation of the development plans of line ministries. The country is also making concerted efforts to mainstream the Goals at the sub-national level, with special emphasis on the northern regions of the country, which are home to the most vulnerable segments of the population. Specific measures being adopted to ensure alignment include multi-sectoral surveys to develop baselines; the use of mobile devices, dashboards and data visualization to make data collection easy and meaningful for planning; and strengthening the capacities of decentralized planning authorities.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo's growth and poverty reduction strategy paper seeks to achieve sustainable development of the country by 2030 by mainstreaming sustainable development in all public policies. The plan sets specific and quantifiable objectives for each ministry to ensure effective follow-up of sustainable development objectives.

Although Kenya's current medium-term plan concludes in 2017, the country is undertaking preparations to ensure that the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 are reflected in the new plan. There is, however, very little awareness of Agenda 2063 outside of the secretariat responsible for delivery of the country's long-term development plan, planning ministries and the national statistics office. Awareness of Agenda 2063 is particularly low at the sub-national level.

Rwanda is integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into its national planning frameworks by conducting a gap analysis to determine areas of divergence and convergence of the Goals with existing national frameworks; integrating and adapting missing Goal indicators in national planning documents; and fully integrating the Goals into the new planning framework and long-term vision. An important component of the integration process is awareness-raising and sensitization about the Goals. This will be achieved through a consultative process and by translating the Goals into the native language, Kinyarwanda.

In addition, Rwanda has devised an elaborate national and subnational oversight and coordination mechanism to facilitate the integration and implementation of the Goals. At the apex of the institutional architecture is parliament and the senate, which provide overall oversight and demand accountability for the implementation of the Goals. The cabinet provides strategic orientation and approves funding. Furthermore, annual leadership retreats, chaired by the President, are held to monitor progress. At the sectoral level, coordination is effected through ministerial clusters that bring together ministers representing the relevant Sustainable Development Goal sectors. At the district level, coordination is achieved through district councils and joint action development forums.

Botswana's new long-term vision (Vision Beyond 2016) and its eleventh national development plan have adopted an incremental approach to sustainable development that starts with focusing on so-called "low hanging fruits", which are affordable and achievable, before moving on to more complex interventions. Sustainable development will be aligned with the next four national development plans of the country, which cover the period 2017-2041. The eleventh national development plan (2017-2023) will focus on reorienting and transitioning the country's major development policies and frameworks to a sustainable development pathway. Implementation of the plan will be governed

by an institutional architecture that comprises a sustainable development secretariat, sustainable development champions appointed at national and district levels, and a sustainable development council. These mechanisms will operate for the first two medium-term planning cycles (eleventh and twelfth national development plans), while being incrementally institutionalized into existing development structures.

IV. Conclusion

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 is an opportunity for African countries to complete the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. The broad scope of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, coupled with the task of integrating both agendas for coherent implementation, poses both a challenge and an opportunity for African countries. The challenge lies in the difficulties in devising a coherent framework that integrates both agendas in a balanced way. The opportunity derives from the fact that integrated implementation promotes policy coherence, minimizes duplication and the reporting burden on policymakers, and orients development partners towards supporting one coherent set of development priorities. A successful transition to the new agendas will, however, require clarity about the relationship between the global and continental agendas, integrated and coordinated institutional arrangements for implementation, strengthened capacities for data collection and analysis, and a monitoring and evaluation system that is horizontally (i.e. sectoral) and vertically (i.e. national versus sub-national) integrated. The institutional frameworks currently in place in countries such as Ethiopia and Rwanda provide lessons for other African countries.