

Annual Report of the Activities of the African Union and its Organs

For the Period of January to December 2025



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AAMFI	Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions	AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on Environment
ACALAN	African Academy of Languages	AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation	AMDC	African Minerals Development Centre
ACERWC	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	AMERT	Africa Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Tool
ACDEG	African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance	AMI	African Monetary Institute
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights	AMO	African Migration Observatory
ADFNS	Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security	AMREC-PARC	African Minerals and Energy Resources Classification
ADMM	African Debt Monitoring Mechanism	AMV	African Mining Vision
AEES	African Energy Efficiency Strategy	AOGS	Africa Ocean Governance Strategy
AESPP	Africa–EU Space Partnership Programme	APET	African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area	APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AfCHPR	African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights	APSA	African Peace and Security Architecture
AfDB	African Development Bank	ARBE	Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment
AfHA	African Humanitarian Agency	ASF	African Standby Force
AfCRA	African Credit Rating Agency	ASRII	African Synthesised Regional Integration Index
AFIRM	AfCFTA Implementation Review Mechanism	ASTII	African Science, Technology, and Innovation Indicators
AFREC	African Energy Commission	ATAF	African Tax Administration Forum
AFRIPOL	African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation	ATMIS	African Union Transition Mission in Somalia
AfRSO	African Road Safety Observatory	AU	African Union
AFSEF	Agriculture, Food Systems, and Environmental Sustainability	AUC	African Union Commission
AfSEM	Africa Single Electricity Market	AUCPCC	African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption
AfSA	African Space Agency	AUDA	African Union Development Agency
AFRICA CDC	Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention	AUABC	African Union Advisory Board against Corruption
AGA	African Governance Architecture	AUFI	African Union Financial Institutions
AGII	Africa Green Industrialisation Initiative	AU-PANVAC	African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
AGMS	African Green Minerals Strategy	AUSC	African Union Sport Council
AIDA	Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa	AWHF	African World Heritage Fund
AIR	African Institute of Remittances	BADEA	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
AIRN	African Integrated Railway Network	BIAT	Boosting Intra-African Trade
AMA	African Medicines Agency		

BTRs	Biennial Transparency Reports
BRGM	Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CAMES	African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CCIs	Creative and Cultural Industries
CELTHO	Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies
CEOS	Centre for Earth Observation Science
CESA	Continental Education Strategy
CEWS	Continental Early Warning System
CIDO	Citizens and Diaspora Directorate
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CJED	Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue
ClimSA-SEWA	Climate Services and Space for Early Warning in Africa
CNDH	Conseil National des Droits de l'Homme
CNES	Centre National d'Études Spatiales
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DNDi	Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOSOCC	Economic Social and Cultural Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDGE	Enhancing Digital Growth and Entrepreneurship
ESA	European Space Agency
ESTI	Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation
ETTIM	Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry, and Minerals
EU	European Union
F15	15 Finance Ministers
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment

FESPACO	Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou
FMAEPI	Specialised Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning, and Integration
FOCAC	Forum on China–Africa Cooperation
G20	The Group of Twenty
GAVI	Vaccine Alliance
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GGWI	Great Green Wall Initiative
GMA	Great Museum of Africa
GMES	Global Monitoring for Environment and Security
GMIS	Global Minerals Information System
HHS	Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development
IAC	Internal Accountability Committee
IATF	Intra-African Trade Fair
IBAR	Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
ICESCO	Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ID	Identification
IFFs	Illicit Financial Flows
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organisation
IOM	Infrastructure and Energy Directorate
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
ITRS	International Transactions Reporting System
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing
JFA	Joint Framework Arrangement
KAS	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
MAPUTO PROTOCOL	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MEDEF	Mouvement des Entreprises de France International
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

NaTReF	National Technical Regulatory Framework
NAUSS	Naif Arab University for Security Sciences
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
NTB	Non-Tariff Barriers
NPOA	National Programmes of Action
NPPO	National Plant Protection Organisations
NSO	National Statistical Offices
NSS	National Statistical System
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODG	Office of the Director General
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIO	Office of Internal Oversight
OLC	Office of the Legal Counsel
PAIDA	Programme for Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa
PAP	Pan-African Parliament
PAPS	Political Affairs, Peace, and Security
PAPSS	Pan-African Payment and Settlement System
PAUSTI	Pan African University Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology, and Innovation
PIDA-PAP	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa – Priority Action Plan II
PIISP	Investment Implementation and Support Programme
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
PPPR	Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response
PPR	Peste des Petits Ruminants
PRC	Permanent Representatives' Committee
PSC	Peace and Security Council
RDPP	Regional Development and Protection Programme
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RINAC	Network of Central African Anti-Corruption Authorities
SAATM	Single African Air-Transport Market
SACA	Skills Audit and Competency Assessment
SADC	Southern African Development Community

SAFGRAD	Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEZ	Special Economic Zones
SGCI	Science Granting Councils Initiative
SGR	Standard Gauge Rail
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SSR	Security Sector Reform
STATAFRIC	African Union Institute of Statistics
STC	Specialised Technical Committee
STISA	Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa
STYIP	Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan
TAH	Trans-Africa Highways
TICAD	Tokyo International Conference on African Development
TJNA	Tribunal de Justice de Nouvelle-Aquitaine
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCTAD	UN Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UNHCR	UN Refugee Agency
UNOOSA	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USD	United States Dollars
WHO	World Health Organisation
YES	Youth Employment Strategy for Africa

FOREWORD

A Message from H.E. Chairperson of the AUC



The year 2025 will always be remembered by the African continent as the year during which our Union was relaunched and repositioned.

I accept with humility and a big sense of responsibility, and duty the honour and trust bestowed upon me and the members of my team at the African Union Commission by their Excellencies the Heads of State and Government of the African Union. This confidence obliges me to commit myself to the service of the interests of the continent, in line with all the pledges I made during my campaign, as well as all the objectives assigned to me by the Member States of our Union.

When I assumed the leadership of the African Union Commission in February 2025, I found an organisation with a clear vision, i.e. Agenda 2063, but which was confronted with structural, budgetary, and security constraints that hindered the full realisation of our collective ambitions. The requirement was a double-edged one – restoring trust in the ability of the Union to act and demonstrating through concrete results that decisions taken at the highest level could translate into tangible changes for all Africans.

In 2025, Africa recorded real growth of about 3.9%, higher than in Latin America and the Caribbean, but still below the development performance of Asia. However, the annual investment required in infrastructure alone is estimated at USD155 billion, i.e. about 5.6% of the continent's GDP, compared with the current rate of nearly 3%. Such investments would ensure that Africa's GDP more than doubles by 2040 and that the continent's average annual growth rate increases by about 4.5 percentage points. These figures indicate the gap between our current performance and what we can accomplish collectively.¹

The first year of my mandate was marked by a significant mobilisation of the Union's institutional architecture. Member States have supported this new impetus at all levels by contributing to the setting of priorities, conducting negotiations and implementing decisions. The Heads of State and Governments, the Chairperson of the Union, the Champions assigned specific issues, as well as the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Mechanisms, have played a crucial role in propelling the new dynamics and consolidating gains made.

The theme for the year 2025 – “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations” – has added a unique historical and moral dimension to this effort. It has enabled us to place our work within a certain perspective that highlights memory, dignity, and transformation by recalling that past injustices continue to affect the economic, social, and political pathways of the continent and its diaspora.

This annual report is presented to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government both as an instrument for political dialogue and accountability, and as a first milestone in the implementation of the Second Ten-Year Plan of Agenda 2063.

For each of the Moonshots, it highlights the progress made in 2025, the gaps relative to agreed targets, and the decisions and adjustments needed to accelerate the realisation of “the Africa we want,” transforming our collective potential into tangible realities for Africans.

H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf
Chairperson of the AUC
African Union Commission

¹ African Union Commission (AUC). Cabinet of the Chairperson (CCP), 2025.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Strategic Shift for the African Union



The year 2025 marked a decisive turning point in the African Union's trajectory. For Africans and people of African descent, and in keeping with the theme of the year dedicated to reparations and reclaiming Africa's narrative, heritage, and place in global governance. It was part of a highly political effort focused on historical justice and dignity. This reflects the continent's collective desire to correct the injustices of the past that have weighed on Africa's economic, social, and political development, and to rebuild a narrative based on sovereignty, dignity, and the affirmation of African values.

The consolidation of a unified and audible African voice on major international platforms received significant attention. From the global financial architecture reform to climate justice, migration governance, health security, nutrition and digital technology, the Continent reaffirmed its commitment to defending coherent common positions, as promoted by its Champions and continental coordination mechanisms. This diplomacy of influence aims to transform the Continent from a passive recipient of global decisions into a strategic actor capable of influencing international policy and rules.

The year 2025 also represented momentum for achieving the Union's strategic objectives, marked by increased mobilisation on the part of the Commission and other Union Organs, as well as Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in support of the 2028 strategic framework developed as part of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) under Agenda 2063.

The institutional reform aimed at translating the decisions of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government into a concrete reality for the people of Africa. In other words, bridging the historical gap between the ambitions of the Agenda 2063 and the realities on the ground by aligning policy priorities, technical programmes and financial resources with the STYIP and its "Moonshots". It is based on a systemic vision of continental transformation, which

combines economic growth, regional integration, democratic governance, sustainable peace, upholding of African values, social inclusion, and global influence.

Economic Integration and Structural Transformation

On the economic front, accelerating continental integration and the structural transformation of African economies remains at the top of the agenda. The key driver of this ambition lies in the effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Efforts are focused on reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, harmonising customs procedures, facilitating cross-border trade, building regional value chains, and improving the business environment. The goal is to transform the potential of the African internal market with its dynamic youth, abundant natural resources, growing innovation, and emerging middle class, into a source of inclusive growth, sustainable industrialization, and massive creation of decent jobs.

Improved infrastructure connectivity remains a major challenge and essential for integration. Investments in transport networks (roads, rails, aviation, seaports), energy infrastructure (grid interconnections, renewables, universal access) and information and communication technologies (broadband, digital transformation, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and data protection) are essential to reducing transaction costs, facilitating the mobility of people and goods, and boosting the productivity of African economies.

At the same time, specific attention is being paid towards improving the continent's financial governance. This includes strengthened African financial institutions, increased domestic resource mobilisation, combating illicit financial flows, improved public debt management, developing pan-African payment and settlement systems (PAPSS), establishing continental credit rating mechanisms, and reforming the international financial architecture to ensure equitable access to development funding and capital markets. The implementation of African financial institutions also remains a key target to be achieved without delay.

Industrialization forms the core of the desired economic transformation. Focus is made on local value addition, export diversification, development of special economic zones, support for small and medium-sized enterprises, promotion of innovative entrepreneurship, improvement of agricultural productivity, sustainable development of mineral resources, and responsible development of the blue economy. It also includes a focus on building resilience to climate shocks, energy transition, and improving public economic policies.

Peace, Security, and Democratic Governance

Against a backdrop of growing crises, armed conflicts, terrorism, violent extremism, and unconstitutional changes of government, peace and security continues to top the continent's agenda. Stability is threatened in many ways: insurgencies in the Sahel and Lake Chad basin, the Horn of Africa, and Eastern DRC; inter-community conflicts; tensions over natural resources; transnational organised crime; maritime piracy; mass population displacement; and humanitarian crises. These challenges destabilise States, undermine social cohesion, drain development resources, and jeopardize the future prospects of millions of Africans, especially young people and women.

Efforts are focused on strengthening the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), developing conflict prevention and management capacities, improving the effectiveness of



peace support missions, strengthening the Peace and Security Council, consolidating the continental early warning system, and mobilising predictable and sustainable funding for peace operations. The Union affirms its determination to shoulder African responsibility in seeking African solutions to African problems, while developing strategic partnerships with the United Nations and other international partners.

Beyond security responses, the vision advocated is one based on lasting peace built on democratic governance, rule of law, respect for human rights, political and economic inclusion of women and youth, transitional justice, civil protection, national reconciliation, and investing in basic social services. Underlying causes of conflict include poverty, exclusion, injustice, poor governance, corruption, marginalisation of certain communities, and unequal management of natural resources, are considered fertile ground for instability. This is why peacebuilding strategies take into account socio-economic development, institutional reform, decentralisation, inter-community dialogue, and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations.

There is also a strong commitment towards advancing good governance, democracy, and citizen participation. The Union reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance, and supports credible, transparent, and inclusive electoral processes, strengthened national human rights institutions, judicial independence, freedom of expression and the media, combating corruption and illicit financial flows, including public institutions' accountability.

Institutional Performance and Accountability

On the institutional front, the focus is on the credibility, transparency, and performance of the Union itself. Efforts are centred on continuing institutional reforms, modernising the Commission's administration, strengthening financial management systems, improving strategic planning, and monitoring and evaluation capacities, while embedding a culture of results and accountability. The aim is to make the Union a more effective organisation,

more responsive to the needs of Member States and citizens, more transparent in its operations, and more rigorous in its use of the resources entrusted to it.

The African Union Annual Report serves as a tool for political accountability and strategic dialogue between the Commission, the Assembly, and all continental stakeholders. It makes it possible to measure progress in the implementation of decisions, identify persistent challenges, learn from past experiences, guide future strategic choices, and formulate strategic and operational recommendations. It is part of a results-based management approach, promoting coordination between the various Organs of the Union, Regional Economic Communities, Regional Mechanisms, and development partners.

The reforms currently underway also aim to strengthen the mobilization of the Union's own resources, reduce dependence on external financing, improve budgetary predictability, streamline procurement systems, professionalise human resources management, and promote integrity and ethics within the Institution. This institutional transformation is underpinned by robust internal control mechanisms, regular audits, complaint and appeal mechanisms, and a culture of compliance and individual accountability.

Connecting with the People and Citizen Ownership

Bringing the Union closer to the citizens of Africa is a key political imperative. The Union is often perceived as a distant, technocratic institution disconnected from the daily realities of citizens. The Union is required to improve its communication on its actions and results, foster ownership of Agenda 2063 among the population, and broaden the participation of civil society, the private sector, local authorities, young people, women, persons with disabilities, and the diaspora in the decision-making and implementation of continental policies.

This commitment to a more inclusive and participatory Union requires strengthened consultation and dialogue mechanisms with civil society organisations (CSOs), youth networks, women's organisations, private sector platforms and diaspora structures. This involves creating platforms where all the continent's diverse voices are heard, contribute to public policy development, monitor the implementation of commitments, and hold institutions accountable.

Strategic communication, public diplomacy and civic education on the history, values, achievements, and challenges of African integration are also priorities. Younger generations are vital to understanding the meaning of the pan-African project, embracing the ideals of solidarity, unity and shared prosperity espoused by the Union, as well as becoming committed actors in the continent's transformation. The arts, culture, sport, media, digital technologies, and formal and non-formal education are all vehicles that can be used to strengthen a common African identity, celebrate the continent's diversity and promote the values of peace, tolerance, justice and regard for human rights.

Prospects and Ambitions for the Future

While recognising that the foundations laid in 2025 can still be improved and that significant challenges, such as infrastructure financing gaps, slow implementation of certain decisions, limited institutional capacity in some Member States, insufficient coordination between various levels of governance, increasing impacts of climate change, demographic pressures and persistent inequalities, remain, however, the year was seen as a turning point, ushering in a new phase of transformation that is more ambitious, inclusive and impact-oriented.

Priorities for the coming years revolve around several strategic areas: accelerating the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan, consolidating peace and security gains, deepening



economic and trade integration, strengthening democratic governance and the rule of law, promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, large-scale investment in youth and education, transitioning to green and climate-resilient economies, responsible development of natural resources, building scientific and technological capacity, protecting cultural heritage while boosting African creativity, as well as strengthening and unifying Africa's voice on the global stage.

The ultimate ambition remains to build a stronger, more sovereign, and effective African Union that is closer to the realities and deep aspirations of Africans. A Union capable of guaranteeing peace, security, and stability on the Continent. One that fosters shared prosperity, inclusive growth, and sustainable development; and upholds the interests of the continent and its diaspora around the world with strength and dignity. A Union that celebrates the wealth of African diversity while cultivating a common continental identity, placing citizens, especially young people, and women, at the centre of its action and vision. An institution that embodies the values of solidarity, justice, equity, democracy, and respect for human rights. A Union that honours the legacy of the founding fathers of Pan-Africanism building with determination and pragmatism, for the prosperous, peaceful, and integrated Africa that we all want.





Introduction



H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and Chairperson of the AU



H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the African Union Commission

A Year of Systemic Mobilisation within the Union

The year 2025 was characterised by a full-scale activation of the mechanisms of the African Union. Decisions taken at the level of the Assembly and the Executive Council were bolstered by a chain of stakeholders, including Heads of State, sector Ministers, Ambassadors to the African Union and national experts. This mobilisation has ensured that the normative and strategic work conducted in Addis Ababa has been intricately aligned with the realities in the capitals and regions. It has also reinforced the link between continental-level planning and national as well as regional implementation.

The constant support of the Chairperson of the Union, the commitment of the Heads of State who are the Champions for Institutional Reform, Economic Integration, Agenda 2063, AfCFTA and Infrastructure, as well as the increased involvement of the Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms, have contributed to enhancing the synchronisation of national, regional, and continental agendas.

Africa in the Face of an Uncertain Economic Environment: Between Resilience and Vigilance

The economic environment in 2025 is marked by a slowdown in external flows – with significant declines in official development assistance, a decline in foreign direct investment, weak international growth weighing on exports, and higher import costs – as well as persistent internal challenges such as the burden of debt and debt servicing and growing socio-economic needs linked to demographics. This situation is resulting in real financial strain, where the contraction of ODA, the slowdown in FDI, and the increase in the cost of external capital squeeze fiscal space and force many States to choose between debt servicing and social investment.

In spite of these factors, Africa was able to remain resilient. Strategies for domestic resource mobilisation, industrialisation and regional integration were accelerated and refocused around the priorities set out in Agenda 2063 and its second 10-year plan. As a result, the continent's economic growth increased to 4% by 2025.

Several bilateral and multilateral partners maintained or realigned their support to ensure that they are further dovetailed into the priorities set by Member States.

High-level Summits and Meetings: Structuring the Continental Agenda



AU Chair 2025: Handover from H.E. President Mohamed Ould El-Ghazouani of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and H.E. President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço of the Republic of Angola and Chairperson of the AU

In 2025, the holding of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, the first on African soil, was a special occasion for Africa to affirm its place in the global economic governance system. As a permanent member since 2023, the African Union proposed a common position for reforming the international financial architecture and ensuring fairer treatment of debt as well as massive and sustainable infrastructure financing.

This sequence ensured that Agenda 2063 was better integrated into the G20 discussions, thereby confirming that Africa is not only an area in which others intervene, but also a full stakeholder in setting the rules of the global game.

This year, several other high-level meetings gave a special impetus to the agenda of the Union. A continental summit dedicated to infrastructure ensured convergence of technical analyses and political arbitration on investment needs, project prioritisation and the reforms required to improve the preparation, governance, and financing of critical infrastructure.

Experts estimate that an amount of USD155 billion will be required annually for infrastructure investment needs to support the productive transformation of the continent. This includes about 32% for roads, 24% for railways, 23% for fibre optics and 17% for solar energy.

The summit between the African Union and the European Union, as well as other strategic dialogues with bilateral and multilateral partners, presented us with fora to defend an African vision of international cooperation based on local value addition, debt sustainability, climate justice, and economic sovereignty.

High-level meetings on development financing brought us together with international financial institutions and partners to consider ways to reduce capital costs, increase private sector participation, which currently accounts for only about 11% of African infrastructure financing, and to better channel financing into the priorities of Agenda 2063 and those of Member States.

The proliferation of transnational threats (terrorism, organised crime, and intercommunity violence) has illustrated the need for an integrated approach.

Peace and Security: Crisis Dynamics and Development Challenges

This year has further confirmed that conflicts and political fragility remain some of the main obstacles to sustainable development on the continent. The situations in the Sahel, Somalia, Sudan and certain areas of the Great Lakes region, as well as the unconstitutional changes of government that occurred in some Member States, continue to be of serious interest to the Peace and Security Council, the Union's missions and the regional mechanisms.

The proliferation of transnational threats (terrorism, organised crime, and intercommunity violence) has illustrated the need for an integrated approach that combines security, governance, development and resilience. In 2025, the Commission, in coordination with the Regional Economic Communities, the United Nations, and other partners, intensified its efforts in the areas of preventive diplomacy, good offices, and support to the peace and political transition processes. These dynamics have direct implications for development, including the destruction of infrastructure, forced displacements, economic contraction, decreased investments, and the weakening of basic social services.

In 2025, the African Union laid the foundations for a course of action, deploying reconciliation, negotiation, and conflict management initiatives on the ground to bring about African solutions and initiate sustainable peace processes.

Africa at the Crossroads: Integration, Reforms, and Reparatory Justice

In addition to managing crises, a long-term vision for the integration and transformation of the continent was reaffirmed in 2025. The implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area continued to make progress, with 54 States becoming parties to the Agreement and the majority of them ratifying the basic instruments. However, there are still obstacles with regard to non-tariff barriers, logistics, and trade facilitation. Discussions on the free movement of goods and people, the harmonisation of industrial policies, and the alignment of regional plans with Agenda 2063 also made progress. The institutional reform of the Union, supported by the previous decisions of the Assembly and the work of the Reform Unit, was pursued in close collaboration with the Reform Champion and Member States to clarify mandates, rationalise structures, and strengthen financial autonomy. Similarly, the theme for the year 2025, Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations, ensured the establishment of a close link between the historical, moral, economic, and geopolitical dimensions of the activities of the Union by highlighting reparatory justice, climate justice, and global governance reform.



This annual report is part of this dynamic. It provides a comprehensive overview of the progress made in 2025 through the seven (7) Moonshots and their strategic objectives, highlighting the advances, gaps, recommendations, and key decisions that should guide the African Union's actions in the coming years.

AU Theme of the Year

“Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations”



Strategic Significance

I have the honour to dedicate this section to the implementation of Assembly Decision 884, by which the Assembly designated the 2025 African Union Theme of the Year as “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations.” This decision elevated reparatory justice for the colonial era to a structured continental programme of action to confront the enduring consequences of transatlantic enslavement, colonialism, and apartheid as crimes against humanity and genocide against the peoples of Africa.

Importantly, this designation positioned reparatory justice as a strategic enabler of Africa’s development sovereignty, political agency, and continental renewal, anchored within the STYIP of Agenda 2063 (2024–2033).

Mandate and Institutional Orientation

The Commission’s work during the reporting period was guided primarily by Assembly Decisions 884 and 903, which mandated the mainstreaming of reparatory justice across the whole African Union system. They were further reinforced by Assembly Decision 913 on the convening of the 9th Pan-African Congress and Assembly Decision 934 on qualifying transatlantic enslavement, deportation, and colonisation as crimes against humanity.

Together, these decisions constitute the strongest normative framework on reparations for historical colonial crimes, transforming political commitment into institutional responsibility.

Within the framework of Agenda 2063, reparatory justice was explicitly aligned with: (i) Aspiration 3 on good governance, justice, and the rule of law; (ii) Aspiration 5 on cultural identity, shared values, and historical consciousness; and (iii) Aspiration 7 on Africa as a confident global actor and norm-shaper. Reparations were thus treated as a cross-cutting enabler underpinning multiple Moonshots of the STYIP, rather than a sector-specific intervention.

Launch, Political Momentum, and Narrative Reframing

The Theme of the Year was launched in February 2025 through high-level political engagement that underscored the indivisibility of Africa and its Diaspora, reaffirming the transcontinental character of the reparations agenda.

The launch phase prioritised global narrative reframing. Reparations were repositioned as a forward-looking justice agenda - integral to development, cultural renewal, scientific and technological equity, and institutional reform, as well as redressing historical injustices. This reframing was amplified through Africa Day commemorations, multistakeholder consultations and mobilisation, and academic and policy engagement.

This narrative shift reinforced reparatory justice as a pillar of Africa’s broader struggle for epistemic, economic, technological, and cultural sovereignty, linking historical redress to contemporary global inequalities and future-oriented transformation.

“The legacy of slavery, colonialism, and racial oppression is not a distant chapter in history, it continues to shape the present. It underpins systemic inequalities that continue to disadvantage millions. Reparations, therefore, are not a symbolic gesture - they are a strategic and restorative measure, essential to healing historical wounds and confronting deeply rooted injustices.”

H.E. Mahmoud Ali
Youssef
Chairperson of the AUC
13th High Level
Dialogue on Human
Rights, Democracy and
Governance





Institutional Architecture and Coordination Mechanisms

A defining achievement was the establishment of a robust institutional architecture to support the reparatory justice agenda.

Central to this architecture was the creation of the AU Coordination Team on Reparations, coordinated by the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO). This mechanism brought together departments, organs, autonomous units, specialised institutions of the Union, as well as representational and liaison offices, embedding reparations across policy domains.

As mandated by Assembly Decision AU/Dec.884, and upon approval of the Terms of Reference by the Executive Council through EX.CL/Dec.1311(XLVII), CIDO coordinated the constitution of the Committee of Experts on Reparations (AUCER) as well as the Reference Group of Legal Experts (AULER), and convened their inception meetings at AU premises from 15-19 December 2025.

The meetings were successful inaugural convening, with each mechanism constituting its bureau and adopting agreed conclusions, including substantive framework papers to guide future deliberations. They also established Working Groups to address issues relating to global governance structural reparations; economic, and environmental, cultural, scientific, and educational reparations; as well as advocacy, communication, and knowledge production. Working Groups also were dedicated to applicable sources of international law from an Afrocentric perspective, the classification and qualification of historical crimes, comparative practices and modalities of reparations, and legal mobilisation strategies.

Following these inception meetings, the Office of the African Union Leader for Advancing the Cause of Justice and Payment of Reparations to Africans, H.E. the President of the Republic of Ghana, kindly extended an invitation to host the first Joint Meeting of the Bureaux of the two mechanisms in Accra, Ghana, from 9–10 February 2026, thereby strengthening coordination and nurturing cross-fertilisation between the two mechanisms.

System-Wide Mainstreaming and Resource Allocation

A notable contribution of the Assembly decisions shifting treating reparations as a stand-alone initiative to positioning it as a cross-cutting priority of Union. The Commission initiated processes to designate reparations as a Flagship Issue and Project, directly linked to Agenda 2063 implementation and STYIP performance frameworks.

Reparatory justice considerations were integrated into the review of the AU Strategic Plan 2024–2028 and the preparation of the 2027 Budget Framework Paper.

In a similar direction, the Commission engaged with Member States to enhance national-level mainstreaming of the reparations agenda encouraging them to host an annual Conference on thereby strengthening ownership and implementation at national and regional levels.

Agenda Setting and Advocacy

Across the AU system, thematic and sectoral initiatives aligned with the reparations agenda were undertaken throughout the year. Agenda setting was achieved by dedicating central deliberations of major AU-hosted events to the Theme of the Year. Advocacy efforts focused on multistakeholder engagements on justice and reparations, consistently advancing priorities established in continental decisions and collective outcomes.

Strengthened coordination among the African Group, working through AU Permanent Missions in Geneva, New York, Brussels, and Washington, proved instrumental in advancing a coherent strategy. This coordination contributed to the adoption of key resolutions within the Human Rights Council and the United Nations General Assembly that placed reparatory justice at the centre of deliberations within the UN system.

These efforts combined diplomatic advocacy, engagement with treaty bodies, and strategic legal pathways, including discussions on advisory opinions and normative development, thereby broadening the avenues through which Africa advances its reparations agenda.

Pursuant to Decision 903, the Commission coordinated with the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in organising the International Conference on the Crimes of Colonialism in Africa: Towards Redressing Historical Injustices through the Criminalisation of Colonialism from 30 November to 1 December 2025, culminating in the Algiers Declaration.

Similarly, pursuant to Decision 913, the Commission co-organised with the Republic of Togo the 9th Pan-African Congress, held in Lomé from 8-12 December 2025 under the theme "Renewal of Pan-Africanism and Africa's Role in Multilateral Institutional Reform: Mobilize Resources and Reinvent for Action." These landmark events further consolidated continental and diaspora mobilisation around justice and reparations.

The Commission also strengthened collaboration with civil society, recognising that sustained progress on reparations requires broad societal ownership and intergenerational engagement.

Partnerships and Multilateral Engagement

The operationalisation of the AU–CARICOM Memorandum of Understanding on Upscaling Engagement with People of African Descent, together with the convening of the Second Africa–CARICOM Summit at AU premises, culminated in the adoption of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Transcontinental Partnership in Pursuit of Reparatory Justice.

Engagement with the United Nations system, particularly UNESCO and the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, further amplified Africa's normative leadership. Reparatory justice was articulated not only in historical terms, but also in relation to contemporary and emerging challenges, including digital inequality and structural global asymmetries. Preparations are underway to host, for the first time on African soil, an annual session of the Permanent Forum at the AU premises in Addis Ababa.

The Theme of the Year also featured prominently in the 7th African Union–European Union Summit, where, for the first time, the Joint Declaration recognised and profoundly regretted the untold suffering caused by the slave trade, colonialism, and apartheid, reaffirmed support for the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and acknowledged the enduring contributions of Africans and people of African descent in shaping future relations.

This diplomatic engagement provides a solid foundation as the Union transitions into the 2026–2035 Decade of Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations.

Remaining Gaps and Forward Outlook

While the Year of Reparations achieved substantial progress, the reporting period also revealed structural gaps requiring urgent attention, including human resource capacity constraints, full operationalisation and sustainable funding of expert mechanisms, and deeper national-level engagement.

At the international level, there remains a need to broaden and deepen partnerships and to mobilise sustained political and institutional support for reparatory justice within the United Nations system and its specialised agencies.

The African Union has entered a new and coherent phase of continental action, demonstrating moral clarity and political leadership in advancing justice and reparations. The year 2025 should be remembered not only as a symbolic milestone, but as the foundation of a durable and unprecedented continental reparations architecture - one without parallel in the multilateral system.

In this context, I issue a clear call to Member States, partners, and global institutions to move decisively from recognition to restitution, reform, and repair - through concrete policy shifts, institutional reform, and material commitments that address the enduring legacies of historical and colonial crimes.

I wish to express my profound appreciation to H.E. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, for his invaluable custodianship as the African Union Leader on Justice and Reparations to Africans.

The task ahead is to ensure that reparatory justice becomes a defining legacy of an enduring Pan-African solidarity.



“Africans do not only seek recognition but a global legal framework that paves the way for healing, accountability and restorative justice.”

H.E. John Dramani Mahama
President of The Republic of Ghana
AU Champion on Reparations

The Strategic Priorities of Agenda 2063



Accelerating Africa's Transformation Through Agenda 2063's Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan's (STYIP) Moonshots.

Agenda 2063 is Africa's strategic blueprint for transformative growth – a visionary pathway to a prosperous, integrated, and self-reliant continent. As the African Union's flagship development framework, it reflects our shared ambition for inclusive progress, economic resilience, and collective dignity. The Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2024–2033) advances this vision through seven targeted Moonshots, tackling Africa's most pressing development priorities while leveraging emerging opportunities for impact at scale.

This 2025 annual report marks a critical checkpoint in our implementation journey. By assessing progress against STYIP's ambitious targets, we strengthen accountability, sharpen strategies, and accelerate delivery. Each Moonshot, grounded in evidence-based interventions and citizen-driven solutions, demonstrates our determination to translate aspirations into tangible, measurable outcomes.

To realise Agenda 2063's vision of a prosperous, united, and globally influential Africa, Strategic Objectives under these seven (7) Moonshots and Cross-cutting Moonshot provide a focused framework for action. They drive economic transformation, enhance governance, advance social development, expand connectivity and innovation, and elevate Africa's global standing – ensuring real benefits for citizens today while building a stronger future for generations to come.

3.1 MOONSHOT 1: EVERY AU MEMBER STATE ATTAINS AT LEAST MIDDLE-INCOME STATUS

Moonshot 1 of the Agenda 2063 Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) establishes a decisive objective: ensuring every AU Member State attains at least middle-income status by 2033. This ambition serves as the primary driver for Africa's economic transformation, targeting a rise in per capita income to a minimum of USD3,048. To achieve this, the plan mandates a shift toward resilient, diversified economies capable of sustaining 6% annual GDP growth. This growth will be fuelled by industrialisation, the expansion of high-tech and tourism sectors, and a strategic push to increase intra-African trade to 30% of total trade volume.²

The STYIP calls for doubling agricultural productivity to reduce food import dependence while simultaneously harnessing the Blue Economy to maximise the potential of fisheries, maritime transport, and energy. These productive sectors are supported by a framework of robust financial systems designed to grow capital markets, increase tax-to-GDP ratios, and curb illicit financial flows. To protect these gains, the strategy integrates climate resilience measures, implementing sustainable land management to minimise economic losses from environmental shocks.

Achieving these ambitions requires a multi-pronged strategy that encompasses prudent policies and enhanced domestic resource mobilisation, aligning national

"The partnership between the African Union and the United Nations has been revitalised for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reaffirming the need for a unified development cooperation architecture."

H.E. Alassane Dramane Ouattara
President of The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
AU Champion on The Follow-Up of the Implementation of AU's Agenda 2063

”

"We have reaffirmed a fundamental truth: the private sector is the indispensable engine for Africa's inclusive growth and sustainable development... Africa is unequivocally open for business."

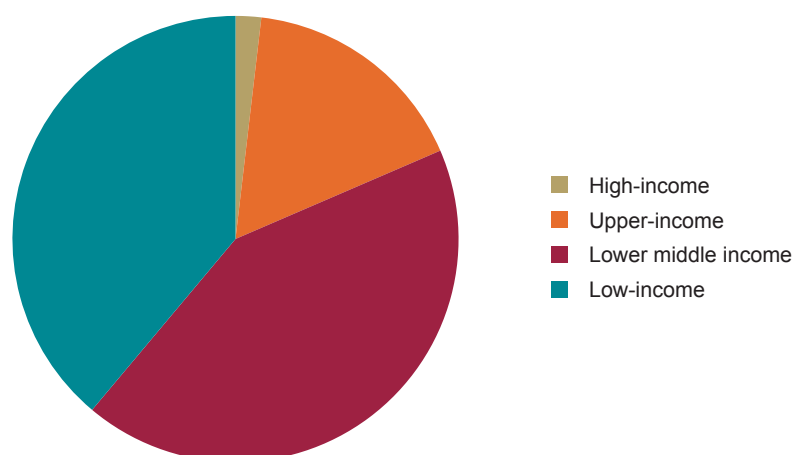
H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf
Chairperson of the AUC TICAD 9

”

² African Union Commission (AUC). Office of Strategic Planning and Delivery (OSPD), 2025.

development plans with continental goals to unlock Africa's productive potential, heavy investment in human capital, digital and physical infrastructure, technology, and innovation to create competitive economies that generate decent jobs.

Progress toward this Moonshot remains uneven across the continent. While several nations have achieved middle-income status, many remain vulnerable to economic shocks. According to the World Bank's country-income classifications (FY25, effective 1 July 2024)³, the breakdown of African economies is as follows:



World Bank's country-income classifications (FY25, effective 1 July 2024) as provided by OSPD

To bridge the gap and ensure every Member State reaches middle-income status, AU Organs are implementing a multi-dimensional, integrated approach that focused on the following priority areas for the year 2025:

- Economic resilience and inclusive, equitable, sustainable economic growth
- Industrialisation development
- Value addition for African commodities
- Agricultural production and productivity
- Climate and disaster resilience
- Blue economy investment

3.1.1 Economic Resilience and Inclusive, Equitable, Sustainable Economic Growth

The economic analysis for 2025 identifies a critical tightening of the financial landscape for Africa, characterised as a “financial squeeze”. This phenomenon is driven by a triple shock – declining official development assistance (ODA), retreating foreign direct investment (FDI), and soaring debt costs.

The era of reliable, high-volume development aid is contracting, necessitating a fundamental rethink of funding models. In 2025, ODA to Africa continued its decline. The impact is most severe in the health and social sectors, where bilateral ODA was projected to fall by 19–33%, dropping below pre-COVID-19 levels. Simultaneously, foreign direct investment (FDI) is undergoing a structural slowdown.

Compounding these liquidity constraints is a crisis of affordability regarding capital. African sovereigns currently pay an estimated “Africa risk premium” of 2.9 percentage points, often resulting in interest rates up to 500% higher than those of



H.E. Francisca Tatchouop Belobe, Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals (ETTİM)

3 African Union Commission (AUC). Office of Strategic Planning and Delivery (OSPD), 2025.

multilateral development banks. Consequently, external debt service is projected to reach USD89 billion in 2025 – exceeding total development assistance inflows (USD60 billion). This disparity forces a crushing trade-off where nations must prioritise creditor payments over funding education or health.⁴

To counter these headwinds, under Moonshot 1, this Strategic Objective focuses on building a more diversified and resilient African economy by strengthening industrialisation, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), cooperatives, and inclusive finance. Amid tighter global financial conditions and rising climate and geopolitical risks, AU institutions are working together to advance Agenda 2063 implementation through deepening economic integration, strengthening governance and implementing targeted capacity development.

Concurrently, Africa is building environmental, social and economic resilience in the face of global disruptions. Continental frameworks like the AU SME Strategy and the emerging Africa Cooperatives Council initiatives are central to this effort. By promoting the Social and Solidarity Economy and expanding, these initiatives help broaden participation in growth and value creation across the continent. Progress towards this Strategic Objective is measured by the Economic Diversification Index, which tracks performance across critical sectors, including mining, tourism, manufacturing, and industry.

AUC advanced the African Economic Community agenda by releasing the 2025 African Integration Report based on the African Synthesized Regional Integration Index (ASRII) and launching a study on readiness for the AU Customs Union and Common Market. Additional milestones included participation in key global trade discussions, the adoption of the AU ECommerce Strategy, updates to the Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT) Action Plan and further rollout of the African Trade Observatory, all aimed at deepening economic integration and enhancing Africa's role in global trade.

Persistent challenges continue to affect economic transformation, development, integration, and trade programmes. These include macroeconomic and political uncertainty and slow signing and ratification of legal instruments establishing AU institutions. Limited alignment between national policies and continental frameworks, inadequate human and financial resources, and slow implementation of strategies on illicit financial flows and the continental tax strategy constrain domestic resource mobilisation and fiscal sustainability.

To address these constraints and accelerate progress under Moonshot 1, six (6) key recommendations have been identified. First, accelerate institutional delivery by fast-tracking ratification and operationalisation of AU financial and related institutions. Second, enable high-level decisions by convening an Extraordinary Assembly to agree on phased implementation with clear timelines and financing. Third, strengthen coordination and accountability by aligning the Commission, RECs and Member States through joint plans and robust monitoring systems. Fourth, enhance alignment between national and continental policies to reduce regulatory fragmentation and support domestication of key frameworks. Fifth, build capacity and financing by reinforcing skills, resource mobilisation, and blended finance mechanisms to crowd in private investment. Sixth, improve crisis preparedness by integrating risk screening, early warning, and contingency planning into economic and integration programmes.

Africa is building environmental, social and economic resilience in the face of global disruptions.

⁴ African Union Commission (AUC). Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals (ETTİM), 2025.

In 2025, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) under its Economic and Social Governance pillar implemented programmes such as the Enhancing Leadership and Governance in Public Financial Management programme that significantly strengthened institutional and human capacities for governance, leadership, and accountability in economic management. In June 2025, 75 public officials graduated from the Leadership Excellence in Africa's Public Sector programme, while the African Finnish Partnership on Taxation Capacity in Africa launched two flagship eLearning courses on good governance and transparency in taxation and taxing the digital economy, reaching more than 1 200 participants from 50 African countries. Complementary specialised workshops on public finance management during crisis times and on managing contingent liabilities equipped 24 senior public finance officials from over 10 countries with practical tools for fiscal risk management and resilience planning, directly supporting stronger, more diversified and shock resistant economies.⁵

In addition, the African Union entities made significant strides in laying the foundation for inclusive and sustainable economic growth, directly supporting Moonshot 1. Our collective efforts focused on leveraging advanced technology, harnessing financial flows from diasporas, and unlocking grassroots innovation to drive structural transformation and build resilient economies.

In this regard, the contributions of specialised agencies such as the African Space Agency, the African Institute on Remittances, and the African Science Research and Innovation Council, in close collaboration with the relevant departments at the AUC, collectively advance this ambition by driving evidence-based policymaking, innovation, remittance-led development, and strengthened human capital.

African Space Agency (AfSA)

One of the key objectives of the African Space Agency, as outlined in the African Space Agency Act, is to enhance space missions across Africa, ensuring optimal access to space-derived data, information, services, and products.



Inauguration of the African Space Agency (AfSA) in Cairo, Egypt

AfSA's formal institutionalisation in 2025, including the inauguration of its headquarters in Cairo and convening of its first Council meetings, established the governance backbone for Africa's coordinated space agenda. Strategic partnerships and MoUs with the European Space Agency (ESA), MEDEF International, CNES, Roscosmos, UNOOSA, ESPI, DLR and others, alongside

⁵ African Union (AU). The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), 2025.

observer and membership status in UNCOPUOS and CEOS, are positioning Africa as an influential actor in global space governance and the emerging space economy.

Through the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) & Africa Programme and the Africa–EU Space Partnership Programme (AESPP), AfSA delivered 19 operational Earth Observation applications to support natural resource management, environmental monitoring, disaster resilience, and policy planning across the continent. Early evidence from precision agriculture and drought monitoring use cases shows potential to raise yields, strengthen food security, and enhance the quality of economic decision-making, while capacity-building for young scientists and convening platforms such as NewSpace Africa and MASS are nurturing a pan-African space innovation market.⁶

GLOBAL MONITORING FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY



Strategic Importance of Remittances for the African Economies

In 2025, efforts by the Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development Department focused on improving remittance-related data and expertise in Member States, enhancing understanding of remittance concepts, their contribution to development, and the potential of diaspora investment. These initiatives complement AIR's technical work by embedding remittance and diaspora issues within broader social development, labour, and human capital agendas, thereby linking income flows to social protection, community resilience, and human development outcomes.

Africa Institute for Remittances' mandate is to improve remittance data compilation and reporting, strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks, and support Member States in leveraging remittances for social and economic development.

In 2025, AIR advanced these goals by developing guidelines for designing remittance-leveraging and diaspora engagement strategies, which experts have recommended for endorsement as a harmonised AU reference document. Complementary guidelines for estimating remittance flows through formal and informal channels, using both International Transactions Reporting System (ITRS) and household survey data, are being refined as a continental tool to harmonise methodologies and improve data accuracy.⁷

These interventions contribute to Moonshot 1 by enhancing the development impact of remittances, increasing market competitiveness, and lowering transfer

⁶ African Union (AU). African Space Agency (AfSA), 2025.

⁷ African Union (AU). Africa Institute for Remittances (AIR), 2025.

costs, thereby expanding disposable income, financial inclusion, and investment in local economies.



“The African diaspora, estimated at nearly 160 million people, forms a strategic pillar of development: with financial transfers exceeding \$100 billion in 2024 and expected to reach a new record in 2025 [...]. Its contribution to investment, innovation and knowledge sharing needs to be better leveraged and structured”

H.M. King Mohammed VI of The Kingdom of Morocco
AU Champion on Migration



African Futures with AUDA-NEPAD – Proportion of remittances in GDP, 2024

ASRIC – Inclusive and Community-Based Innovation

ASRIC’s 2025 Inclusive and Community-Based Innovation initiative aims to identify, validate, and scale community innovations that address socio-economic challenges and reinforce science, technology, and innovation (STI) as drivers of prosperity. With a modest budget, the project established a database of 70 inclusive innovations across 28 Member States, initiated regional mapping for West, East and Southern Africa, and forged partnerships with 10 National Academies of Science and five (5) universities to document community innovations.⁸

Overall, the combined work of AfSA, AIR, ASRIC, and the AUC contributes to inclusive, equitable, and sustainable economic growth by improving data and governance, catalysing innovation, and leveraging remittances and human capital, thereby moving AU Member States closer to the shared objective of achieving and sustaining middle-income status.

3.1.2 Industrialisation Development in Africa

Industrialisation is a central pathway for achieving Moonshot 1, as it drives structural transformation, job creation, and export diversification across African economies.

In 2025, the AUC recorded significant progress in implementing Agenda 2063’s industrialisation agenda, with focused efforts on industrial development, mineral resource governance, SME and entrepreneurship promotion.

⁸ African Union (AU). African Scientific, Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC), 2025.

These initiatives were complemented by a robust programme of activities to boost intra-African trade and investment.

The 2025 Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) in Algiers (4–10 September) was a flagship achievement bringing together Heads of State, entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, and development partners. Over 50 African exhibitors showcased innovations, while AU flagship programmes such as African Women in Processing and the AU Youth Start-Up Programme provided incubation, market access, and technology adoption support. A key highlight was the AU Start-Up Pitch Competition, co-organised with partners including Google Hustle Academy, Afreximbank and UNDP.



General Biotech (From the AU Youth Start Up Program) signed an MoU with SPA Condor (Algeria) to Produce & Distribute Solar Baby Incubators across Africa & beyond at the IATF2025

In the same vein, the 16th High-Level Private Sector Forum took place in the Republic of Djibouti under the theme “Harnessing Africa’s Digital Economy and Innovation”, gathering government officials, entrepreneurs, innovators, and start-ups, in which concrete partnerships were announced, such as the one between the Moroccan start-up Mention.ma and the Djiboutian Saba African Bank.



16th High-Level AU Private Sector Forum from 8-10 December 2025 in The Republic of Djibouti

AUC also co-organised the Fifth Türkiye-Africa Economic and Business Forum in Istanbul (16–17 October 2025), under the theme “Navigating Global Economic Uncertainty: Strengthening Türkiye–Africa Partnership”.

In parallel, the AUC deepened its partnership with the China-Africa Business Council to mobilise private sector investment and support trade, industrialisation, and technology transfer.

Other examples include the business forums held on the margins of the TICAD 9 in Tokyo and AU-EU Summit in Luanda.

AUDA-NEPAD complemented these efforts through its industrialisation, trade and markets portfolio. Under the Programme for Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (PAIDA), governance frameworks were operationalised, pilot industrial corridors identified, and a funding proposal submitted to the African Development Bank, while baseline mapping for Special Economic Zones (SEZ) was completed and an SEZ Academy established to integrate African and Asian best practices. A USD121 million Extractive Industries Programme, aligned with the African Mining Vision, supported artisanal and small and medium enterprises and research and development hubs. Homegrown Solutions Accelerators scaled 46 health enterprises, created over 6,000 jobs and raised USD72 million in capital, while a new agribusiness accelerator ensured at least 50% participation by women and youth. On trade facilitation, joint AIDA/AfCFTA assessments were piloted, the SimpliClear platform deployed, and One-Stop Border Post efficiency improved. In tourism and creative industries, pilots were launched in the Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Sierra Leone and the Republic of Liberia, accompanied by “Made in Africa” campaign efforts and Golden Jubilee preparations.



“We call for concrete actions... Accelerating Value Chains: Moving beyond raw material extraction to local processing and manufacturing, creating jobs and wealth on the continent.”

H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf
Chairperson of the AUC
TICAD 9

The African Inclusive Markets Excellence Centre (AIMEC) is an initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), hosted by the Republic of Tunisia, aimed at fostering inclusive economic development across the continent. It supports AU Member States in designing policies that promote equitable access to market opportunities, especially for marginalised communities.



AIMEC Strategic Planning Meeting from 28–30 October 2025 in Tunis, Tunisia

These interventions collectively strengthened regional value chains, intra-African trade, and youth and women employment, catalysing the development of industrial corridors and market systems. Next steps focus on scaling successful pilots, mobilising blended finance and aligning implementation with the Human Capital

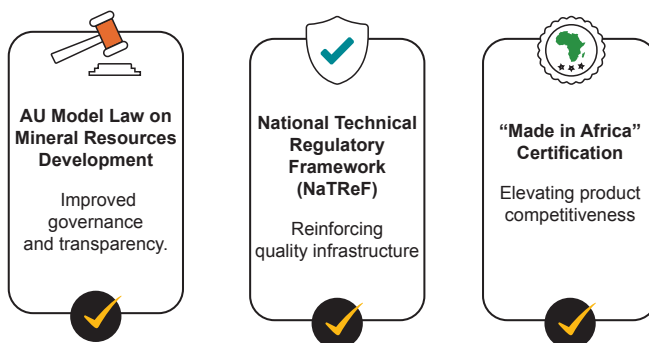
and Institutional Development cluster to ensure that corridor and industrialisation investments are matched with skills and institutional capacity.

3.1.3 Value Addition for African Commodities

Value addition for African commodities is a core lever for achieving Moonshot 1, as it transforms raw materials into higher-value products, increases export earnings, creates quality jobs, and strengthens Africa's industrial base. This Strategic Objective is being advanced through continental frameworks such as the African Mining Vision (AMV), Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa (AIDA), and the African Commodity Strategy, with progress measured through changes in manufacturing value added as a share of GDP.

On the policy front, AUC continued to shape the regulatory environment for industrial and mineral development. A key milestone was the development of the AU Model Law on Mineral Resources Development, which aims to improve governance, transparency, and sustainable utilisation of mineral resources across Member States. Progress was also made on the National Technical Regulatory Framework (NaTReF) and the “Made in Africa” certification scheme, both designed to reinforce Africa's quality infrastructure and elevate the competitiveness of African products in intra-African and global markets. At the global level, the AUC maintained strong visibility for Africa's industrial agenda and advocated actively on harnessing critical energy transition minerals for diversification and resilient global supply chains, thereby positioning African commodities at the centre of the green and digital transitions.

STRENGTHENING THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT



The AUC, through the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), led regional consultations in the United Republic of Tanzania in July 2025 to advance implementation of the AU Commodity Strategy and Action Plan. These consultations, focused on the East African Community, strengthened coordination among Member States, built national capacities, and agreed on a regional monitoring and evaluation mechanism with biannual reporting, reinforcing commodities as drivers of structural transformation.

Throughout 2025, AMDC actively promoted the African Minerals and Energy Resources Classification (AMREC-PARC) framework, the African Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS) and the AMV across regional and continental platforms. Key engagements included the 2nd Africa Clean Power convening in the Republic of South Africa, which linked AGMS with the Pooled Fund for International Energy to drive the Lithium-Ion AfroHackathon; the AMREC–PARC and GMIS Southern Africa Workshop in Lusaka, which deepened stakeholder understanding and uptake of the classification system; and the PanAfGeo+ Kickoff Meeting, which advanced geoscience capacity building in partnership with the EU and BRGM.



H.E. Moses Malindane Vilakati, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE)

3.1.4 Agricultural Production and Productivity

Agenda 2063's Moonshot 1 on agricultural production and productivity focuses on raising output while using resources more efficiently, so that agriculture becomes a stronger engine of inclusive growth, competitiveness, and improved living standards. This Strategic Objective is being advanced through policy reforms, flagship programmes, investment in resilience, and coordinated capacity-building across the AU system.

In 2025, the AU successfully convened the Extraordinary Session of the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government (9–11 January, Kampala, Uganda), which endorsed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Kampala Declaration to transform Africa's agrifood systems. It then developed implementation guidelines for domestication of the Kampala Declaration and the associated 10-year CAADP Strategy and Action Plan (2026–2035), adopted at the 6th STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Environment, and launched together with the Kampala Declaration in Johannesburg, South Africa, marking a major milestone for agricultural transformation and sustainable development.

The AU produced the 5th CAADP Biennial Review Report, the final assessment under the Malabo Commitment, providing a critical stocktake of progress and a basis for shaping the Kampala agenda and future investments. In October 2025, it organized the 21st CAADP Partnership Platform, the 16th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) and the 2025 Malabo Policy and Learning Event in Kigali, Rwanda, bringing together about 450 participants from governments, parliaments, RECs, farmers' organisations, youth and women's groups, and private sector and development partners.

2025 AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION ROADMAP



“Released at a pivotal moment - following the UN Food Systems Summit +4 and the Second Africa Climate Summit - BR5 situates Africa’s agricultural transformation within global food systems and climate action agendas.”

H.E. Abiy Ahmed
Prime Minister of The
Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia
Au Champion on CAADP
Biennial Review

”

The AUC also convened four (4) flagship events advancing Agenda 2063 and the Malabo Declaration: The Conference on Land Policy in Africa, the Digital Agriculture Conference, the Job Creation Forum, and the International Day of Rural Women. Across these, close to 1,600 participants engaged (450 at the Land Policy Conference, 380 at the Digital Agriculture Conference, 500 at the Job Creation Forum and 250 at the International Day of Rural Women), strengthening frameworks for land governance and digital agriculture, promoting agribusiness and value chain opportunities, advancing technology adoption and digital skills, and reinforcing gender-responsive and youth-inclusive participation.⁹

9 AUC. Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), 2025.

The African Union Semi-Arid Food Grain Research and Development (AU-SAFGRAD) advanced climate-resilient agriculture and water management in semi-arid areas by facilitating domestication of the AU Framework on Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management Solutions. At the 6th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage (14–16 April 2025, Abuja, Nigeria), it led technical discussions on policy and institutional bottlenecks hindering smallholder irrigation, sharing lessons from successful implementation. AU-SAFGRAD also contributed to the establishment of a Global Instrument on Drought and Preparedness under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP17, working closely with the African Group of Negotiators and supporting negotiations on a Drought Protocol to strengthen preparedness and resilience.

On animal health, AU-IBAR operationalised the AU Digital One Health Platform (AUDOHP), which is now being upscaled across Member States to support integrated multi-sectoral data and analytics. The Pan-African Programme for the Eradication of PPR (2023-2027) was launched in February 2025, targeting a disease affecting most of AU Member States; and a dedicated PPR Secretariat was established at AU-IBAR and regional coordinators deployed in Central, East, Southern and West Africa. AU-IBAR developed a framework for an African Common Position on sustainable and resilient livestock food systems designed to guide low-emission, climate-resilient pathways.

Regarding animal production, AU-IBAR focused on mobilising investment across multiple countries. The institution also supported efforts to strengthen Marine Protected Areas in the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Madagascar and the Republic of Senegal, established the West Indian Ocean Network for Small-scale Octopus Fisheries to promote sustainable small-scale fisheries, and supported the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and protect aquatic biodiversity.

On trade and marketing, AU-IBAR developed fifteen (15) African common positions on animal health standards and twenty (20) on food safety standards for submission to international standard-setting bodies, strengthening Africa's regulatory voice. Regionally, it is harmonising standards and procedures for ten (10) priority transboundary animal diseases to simplify certification and inspection systems and reduce non-tariff barriers under the AfCFTA. Through the African Pastoral Markets Development Platform, anchored in the Republic of Kenya and the Federal Republic of Nigeria as lighthouse countries, AU-IBAR is developing market-driven business models and public-private partnership (PPPs) to attract investment in pastoral infrastructure, logistics, and value chains, enabling pastoralists to participate in regional and international trade.

Construction of the AU Campus in Nairobi began in March 2025, creating a centralised hub for AU-IBAR, the AUDA-NEPAD East Africa Regional Office and Centre of Excellence, the African Institute for Remittances, the African Union Transition Mission in the Federal Republic of Somalia, and the Pan African University Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology, and Innovation (PAUSTI). The campus is designed to streamline shared services in procurement, ICT, logistics, finance, protocol, HR, and security, and to reduce rental costs for the host government.

"The official launch of the Pan-African Programme on the Eradication of Peste de Petits Ruminants held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 3 February 2025."

H.E. Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno
President of The Republic of Chad
AU Champion on The Fight Against Peste Des Petits Ruminants (PPR) 2025

”

PROTECTING MARINE BIODIVERSITY & SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPAS)

Support provided to Gabon, Madagascar, and Senegal.



NEW NETWORK

West Indian Ocean Network for Small-scale Octopus Fisheries.



ENFORCEMENT

SADC Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Coordination Centre (to combat IUU fishing).



Inspection Services, Pest Surveillance & Diagnostics: Capacity of AU Member States' National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs)

In 2025, the AUC, through the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) and AU-PANVAC, strengthened NPPO capacities to safeguard agricultural productivity and food security.

Africa advanced its global phytosanitary voice by adopting four (4) international standards at CPM-19 in Rome, Italy (17-21 March). Construction began on the AU-PANVAC Laboratory Facility Complex in Bishoftu, Ethiopia (March), funded by USD56 million from the US Defence Threat Reduction Agency. This facility will enhance vaccine quality control, disease diagnostics, surveillance, training, and biosecurity, directly building NPPO expertise for resilient agricultural systems.¹⁰

The AU Centre for Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases in the Republic of Malawi is also active in this.

AUDA-NEPAD – AFSEF (Agriculture, Food Systems, and Environmental Sustainability)

Under AUDA-NEPAD leadership, AFSEF pursued integrated delivery on food systems, climate action, and trade through corridor initiatives, policy harmonisation, and investment pipeline development. Country readiness missions in the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Zimbabwe aligned national investment plans with CAADP, improving coherence and investment readiness. Coordination among SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the East African Community (EAC) strengthened joint planning and unified monitoring, promoting inter-REC harmonisation of food systems policies.

African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

Under the Agribusiness Facility for Africa, launched in July 2025, ACBF supported the establishment of the International Agribusiness Practitioners Association by facilitating the preparation of its statutes, governance framework, and strategic documents, and initiating its legal registration.

Operationally, the Matching Grant Fund continued to catalyse climate-resilient investments in agricultural value chains such as maize, livestock, and cocoa. Two cohorts, comprising 66 beneficiaries, received operational and financial support to implement tailored projects, alongside access to targeted training modules designed to improve competitiveness, sustainability, and resilience.



Mrs Nardos Bekele Thomas,
CEO of AUDA-NEPAD

¹⁰ African Union (AU). Inter-African Phytosanitary Council (IAPSC) and AU-PANVAC, 2025.

ACBF AGRIBUSINESS IMPACT

Launch Date July 2025 Agribusiness Facility for Africa	Matching Grant Fund Results 66 total beneficiaries across two cohorts
Key achievement Establishment and legal registration of the International Agribusiness Practitioners Association	3 Priority Value Chains Maize, Livestock and Cocoa 

Overall, these contributions demonstrate how continental policy leadership, scientific and technical support, capacity development and investment facilitation are jointly enhancing agricultural production and productivity, reinforcing food security and resilience, and advancing AU Member States toward the shared goal of attaining at least middle-income status.

3.1.5 Climate and Disaster Resilience

Climate and disaster resilience is a critical enabler of Moonshot 1, ensuring that Africa's growth path remains inclusive and sustainable despite escalating climate risks and natural hazards. By integrating resilience into development planning, Member States can safeguard hard-won gains, minimise losses and support a stable transition towards middle-income status.

Under this Strategic Objective, African countries are implementing continental frameworks on biodiversity, forestry, wildlife, climate change, meteorology, disaster risk reduction, sustainable land management, and water resources. Progress is measured by the number of Member States substantially implementing these frameworks across sectors such as agriculture, urban development, infrastructure, and social services. This integrated approach strengthens environmental, social, and economic resilience and helps protect vulnerable communities from climate and disaster shocks.

In 2025, the AUC provided strong continental leadership on climate action and finance. It unified Africa's negotiation stance by convening the Africa Group of Negotiators on Climate Change and leading preparations for the Second Africa Climate Summit, resulting in the Addis Ababa Declaration and better readiness for COP30 in Belém, Brazil. The AUC facilitated over USD900 million in showcased climate projects, secured USD18 million in direct deals, launched the USD58 million Africa Climate Action Programme designed to support climate-resilient, low-carbon development, including in coastal and riparian communities. It also supported large national pipelines such as the Republic of Zambia's USD2.1 billion portfolios. Capacity building reached 101 experts on NDCs, BTRs and the Enhanced Transparency Framework, while gender-responsive climate finance training benefited 202 individuals (59% women). The inaugural youth training on UNFCCC negotiations equipped 15 young African negotiators and integrated them into global fora, ensuring intergenerational continuity in climate diplomacy.¹¹

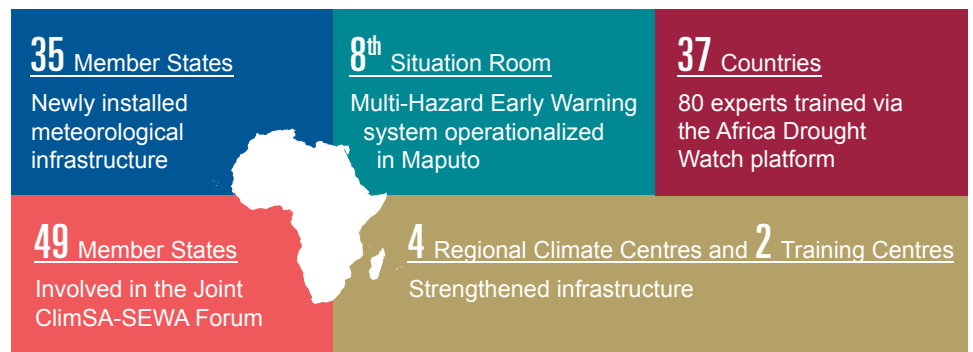
"Africa remains among the world's most climate-vulnerable regions, with over 221 million people affected by disasters between 2021 and 2025."

H.E. Daniel Francisco Chapo
President of The Republic of Mozambique
AU Champion for Disaster Risk Management in Africa

”

¹¹ AUC. Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), 2025.

STRENGTHENING CONTINENTAL PREPAREDNESS



On disaster risk reduction, the AUC expanded early warning and anticipatory action capabilities. The 8th Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System Situation Room was operationalised in Maputo, and the Africa Drought Watch platform was launched, with 80 experts from 37 countries trained on risk monitoring and hazard detection. The Africa Urban Resilience Programme established its governance structures, launched the AQILINE Partnership with UNDP, UN Habitat and UNEP, and produced the Urban Resilience Knowledge Series, while the AU formally joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure. Governance advances included presenting the African Common Position on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) at the Global Platform, launching a Danish-funded programme on multi-hazard early warning and developing a roadmap to operationalise the Civilian Capacity Mechanism for Disaster Preparedness and Response.

In the area of multilateral environmental agreements, AUC helped consolidate Africa's collective voice. In line with AMCEN decisions, the African Group of Negotiators on Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) was formally established, leading to rapid adoption of a Common African Position for CITES COP20. The AUC supported the development of the Africa Framework on Chemicals and Waste to guide African engagement in plastics and chemicals negotiations and trained 40 young negotiators and 30 journalists on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). It also successfully convened the first Conference of Parties of the Revised Maputo Convention on nature conservation.

Meteorology and climate information services were strengthened through the installation of new infrastructure in 35 AU Member States, four (4) Regional Climate Centres and two (2) Training Centres, with experts from 40 countries trained on its use. The AUC mobilised EUR3.5 million for the Space for Early Warning project and launched the four-year Africa-EU Space Partnership Programme (2025–2028). User Interface Platforms were established for agriculture, DRR, health, and water, and the Joint ClimSA-SEWA Forum, involving 49 AU Member States, advanced integration of climate services into policy and planning. Priorities for 2026 include completing infrastructure deployment and securing additional financing, particularly through the Green Climate Fund.¹²

Sustainable land management was advanced through operationalisation of the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI). The AUC convened partners and experts to agree a coordination mechanism, develop an operational plan, and establish Technical Working and Advisory Groups, alongside drafting guidelines on tree use rights. Seven policy briefs were prepared to align the GGWI Strategy with key AU frameworks, and advocacy efforts, including high-level webinars and the “We

¹² AUC. Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), 2025.

Are Generation Restoration” campaign, elevated the visibility of land restoration and youth-led solutions.



H.E. Dr Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, at Africa Climate Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (September 2025)

On water and sanitation, the Post-2025 Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy were adopted by African Ministers’ Council on Water (AMCOW), backed by broad consensus from the Third African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water. The Africa Water Investment Summit showcased 80 priority projects from 38 countries and secured a Declaration to scale up investments. The AUC supported 11 AU Member States to develop National Climate Resilient Water Investment Programmes and helped 12 countries prepare Green Climate Fund project ideas. It also prepared the first AIPPIDA Water Investment Scorecard Report and Action Framework linked to the AU 2026 Theme of the Year.

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) reinforced this resilience agenda through its work on climate change and energy for productive use. The African Leadership for Climate Adaptation Programme helped four (4) African institutions evolve from fragmented entities into stable organisations with stronger systems, governance, and programme management, raising their average organisational capacity index from 0.5 in 2022 to 0.7 in 2025.¹³ The African School of Regulation Programme expanded applied research on energy regulation, added new short courses on renewable integration and power market regulation and deepened engagement with policymakers.

3.1.6 Blue Economy Investment

Blue economy investment is a critical lever for achieving Moonshot 1, as it unlocks new sources of growth, jobs, and revenue from Africa’s oceans, seas, rivers, and lakes while safeguarding ecosystems. The Africa Blue Economy Strategy provides an overarching framework for integrating these opportunities into national and regional development plans.

In 2025, the AUC made significant progress in advancing an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that contributes directly to a more prosperous Africa. Its work combined policy development, investment mobilisation, and capacity-building, anchored in the five key priorities of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy: marine biotechnology; environmental conservation; expansion of shipping networks; development of aquatic transport and sustainable management of fisheries; and deep-sea mineral resources.

The impact of these efforts will be monitored through the blue economy’s percentage contribution to Africa’s GDP, as well as complementary indicators on governance, jobs, and ecosystem health.

¹³ African Union Commission (AUC). The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), 2025.

“

“The preservation of coastal and marine ecosystems through the blue economy, which is a flagship initiative of the African Union, is part of our continental priorities.”

H.E. Mahmoud Ali
Youssef
Chairperson of the AUC,
Statement at 2nd Africa
Climate Summit

The achievements during 2025 included the adoption of several landmark policy instruments that strengthen environmental and ocean governance. The Africa Ocean Governance Strategy (AOGS) was endorsed by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, marking a major step towards harmonised continental stewardship of Africa’s blue spaces. The Africa Framework on Chemicals and the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy provided additional pillars for managing pollution, hazardous substances, and freshwater resources in a coherent, sustainable manner. A central role was played in securing unified continental leadership at the Second Africa Climate Summit, positioning Africa as a proactive actor in global climate and ocean negotiations.

The First Africa Water Investment Summit, which convened development banks, investors, bilateral partners and governments, resulted in indicative pledges of USD10–12 billion per year in water-related investment pipelines. These commitments are expected to strengthen water security, underpin blue economy value chains, and enhance resilience to climate shocks.

Specific to blue economy investment, AUC further strengthened policy and coordination to position Africa as a leader in sustainable ocean governance. The adoption of the AOGS created a common continental framework for managing marine and coastal resources, maritime zones, and ocean-related activities in a way that balances economic use with ecosystem protection. To support the implementation of the Africa Blue Economy Strategy, the AUC developed a Blue Economy Dashboard to systematically track progress and outcomes. In collaboration with AUIBAR, it provided technical support to 29 AU Member States and eight RECs to accelerate domestication of the Strategy and the development of national and regional blue economy policies. Foundational financing for these efforts was secured through the AUC–UNDP Joint Programme and the USD9 million GEF-funded Africa Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Project, which will help catalyse further public and private investment in sustainable fisheries, coastal tourism, marine conservation, and related sectors.¹⁴

“

“...Unlock Africa’s development potential via the Blue Economy, while remaining firmly committed to conserving the integrity of its marine environment and safeguarding its ocean heritage for present and future generations.”

H.E. Dr. Patrick Herminie
President of The Republic of Seychelles
AU Champion on Blue Economy

THE BLUE ECONOMY MOMENTUM



These 2025 milestones strengthened the foundation for the 2030 target of \$405 billion in revenue and 57 million jobs.

¹⁴ AUC. ARBE – Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE), 2025.

3.2 MOONSHOT 2: AFRICA IS MORE INTEGRATED AND CONNECTED

Moonshot 2 targets the creation of a unified economic and political space by 2033. This aspiration is designed to facilitate the seamless movement of people, goods, capital, and data across a population of over 1.4 billion.¹⁵ To achieve this, the STYIP prioritises three catalytic pillars: strengthening integration frameworks, expanding cross-border infrastructure, and establishing a Single African Digital Market.

Success is defined by ambitious targets, including the domestication of key protocols such as the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), achieving 80% completion of inter-African road connectivity, and ensuring 50% completion of rail connectivity by 2033. Furthermore, the plan aims to bridge the digital divide by providing 80% of the population with high-speed internet access of at least 6Mbps and implementing the AU Digital ID.

INTRA-AFRICAN CONNECTIVITY



IED SAATM and air transport updates 2025

Air traffic worldwide Flight Radar 15/11/2024 12h23

However, the realisation of these ambitions requires overcoming significant historical fragmentation. Current data from UNCTAD and Afreximbank underscores the magnitude of this challenge: intra-African trade remains estimated at approximately 16% of total trade (2022–2023). This stands in stark contrast to highly integrated regions such as Europe (~68%) and Asia (~59%).¹⁶ While the AfCFTA represents a critical mechanism to close this gap, its implementation faces practical hurdles. Although political buy-in is high and ratification has advanced rapidly, the operational phase – encompassing tariff schedules, rules of origin, and customs facilitation – is being rolled out gradually. Consequently, only a subset of countries participated in the early rounds of active trading under AfCFTA mechanisms.

Physical and digital connectivity efforts mirror this gradual pace of implementation. While the AU's Integrated High-Speed Train Network is a flagship aspiration under AUDA-NEPAD coordination, the programme currently remains largely at the planning and feasibility stage. National Standard Gauge Rail (SGR) projects are progressing unevenly, and the continent-wide network is not yet operational,

¹⁵ African Union Commission (AUC). Office of Strategic Planning and Delivery (OSPD), 2025.

¹⁶ UNCTAD, AFREXIMBANK. Provided by AUC, Infrastructure and Energy Directorate (IED), 2025.

reflecting long-standing obstacles in financing and cross-border interoperability common to PIDA Priority Action Plan projects. Similarly, while the mobile sector contributes materially to African GDP, a significant digital divide persists. Regional analyses, including the ITU's State of Broadband 2025, highlight that fixed-broadband and high-capacity fibre penetration remain low relative to global peers, creating coverage and affordability gaps that hinder the full potential of digital trade.

Ultimately, infrastructure finance and trade facilitation remain the binding constraints to Moonshot 2. According to the African Development Bank (AfDB) and Afreximbank, a persistent financing gap for roads, ports, and power, combined with non-tariff barriers, blunts the immediate benefits of integration.

In 2025, progress toward achieving the main objectives of this Moonshot has been made through strategic action in the following areas:

- AfCFTA implementation
- Digital transformation strategy
- Transport connectivity
- Energy security and markets
- Africa's financial governance



*Mr Wamkele Mene,
Secretary General of
AfCFTA Secretariat*

3.2.1 AfCFTA Implementation

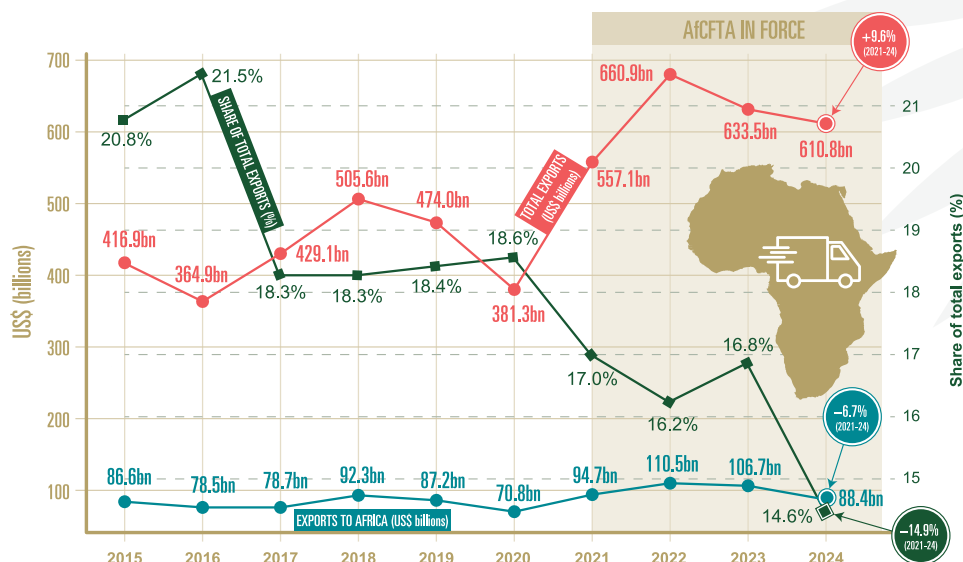
The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims at accelerating intra-African trade and boosting Africa's trading position in the global market by strengthening Africa's common voice and policy space in global trade negotiations.

In 2025, the African Union mobilised Member States to enhance AfCFTA's role in boosting continental trade. Key initiatives included launching Guided Trade programmes, forming national and regional implementation committees, creating the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), establishing the AfCFTA Adjustment Fund, developing trade corridors, and eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers. Progress will be measured by the percentage increase in intra-African trade in goods and services.

ACCELERATION OF AfCFTA IMPLEMENTATION



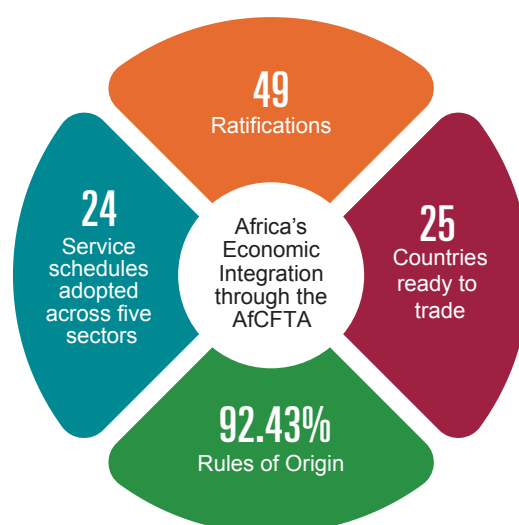
INTRA-AFRICA EXPORTS - VALUE, SHARE AND TOTAL (2015-2024)



AfCFTA Secretariat from Trade Map (ITC)

The intra-African exports' share of total exports has declined over the past decade to 14.6% in 2024, including since the AfCFTA's inception (a 14.9% decline from 2021 to 2024), indicating that growth in Africa's total exports has been toward third countries rather than other African partners.

Specifically in 2025 the AfCFTA Secretariat continued to drive Africa's economic integration, recording substantial progress in ratification, implementation, and institutional strengthening. By August 2025, 49 countries had ratified and deposited instruments of ratification, leaving only five pending and the State of Eritrea yet to sign. Under the Protocol on Trade in Goods, 48 of 50 tariff schedules were verified, 25 State Parties gazetted readiness to trade, and 92.43% of Rules of Origin were agreed, with negotiations ongoing in the textiles and automotive sectors. Progress was also made in resolving non-tariff barriers and harmonising sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. Under the Protocol on Trade in Services, 24 schedules of specific commitments were adopted across five key sectors, and draft regulatory frameworks for financial and communication services were finalised.¹⁷



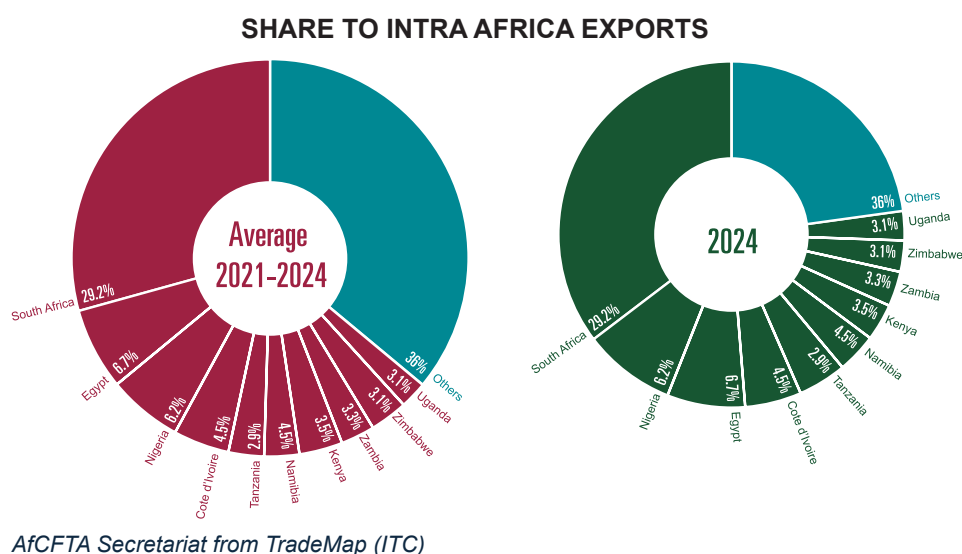
¹⁷ African Union (AU). African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), 2025.

Further milestones were achieved across related protocols. The Competition Policy framework advanced through draft tribunal regulations, annexes to the Protocol on Intellectual Property Rights neared completion, and the Investment Implementation and Support Programme (PIISP) was adopted to strengthen capacity and alignment. The Protocol on Digital Trade was adopted by the AU Assembly, followed by the Enhancing Digital Growth and Entrepreneurship (EDGE) programme and the inaugural Digital Trade Forum, which produced a 12-point Call to Action endorsed by the Council of Ministers. Under the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade, an implementation framework and investment plan were initiated to enhance inclusion and market access.

The Dispute Settlement Body held its 14th session, the AfCFTA Implementation Review Mechanism (AFIRM) completed its first national readiness assessment in the Republic of Sierra Leone, and National Implementation Committees became active in 37 countries. The e-Tariff Book and the Electronic Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) Mechanism were deployed to streamline customs operations and facilitate trade.

Institutionally, the AfCFTA Secretariat consolidated its operational capacity. The Secretariat also strengthened partnerships with the private sector through initiatives such as the Agri-Trade Action Plan, which advanced value chain development in cashew and cotton; the Women and Youth in Fisheries Programme, which trained over 4,700 participants (66% women) and linked 33 SMEs to finance; and the Automotive Industry Programme, implemented with Afreximbank and the Toyota Wessels Institute. The AfCFTA Adjustment Fund became operational with Afreximbank’s USD1 billion credit facility and a USD10 million grant. Key 2025 initiatives included BIAHARA Afrika 2025 (the Togolese Republic), the AfCFTA Private Sector Platform, and the AfCFTA Forum and Festival on Tourism, Creative, and Cultural Industries in Accra. Nineteen AfCFTA Trading Companies were also established in nine countries to enhance intra-African trade.¹⁸

The second edition of the AfCFTA Business Forum took place in Marrakech, Morocco under the theme “Together for an Effective Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area” on 11–12 December 2025. The Forum provided an opportunity to discuss the implementation of the AfCFTA and its future prospects. It also included a masterclass for young African entrepreneurs called “Making AfCFTA’s Promise into Reality”.



18 African Union (AU). African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), 2025.

During 2021–2024, the Top 10 countries’ contribution to intra-Africa exports ranking remained stable on average. This figure shows that the years following the AfCFTA’s entry into force did not disrupt the order of African countries’ contributions to intra-African trade.

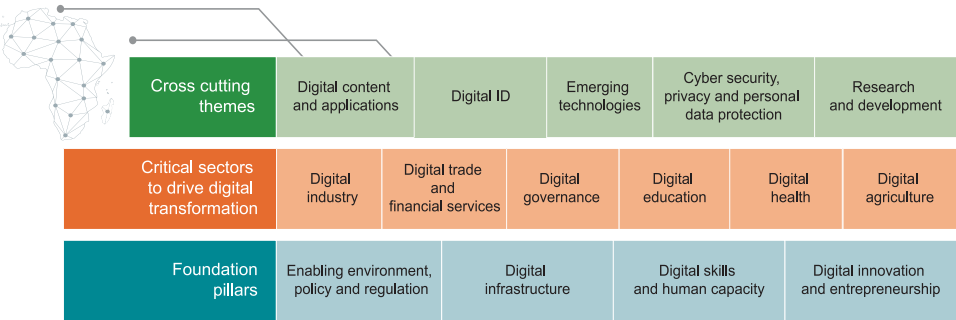
Strategically, the AfCFTA positioned Africa to respond collectively to shifting global dynamics, advancing sustainable industrialisation through the Africa Green Industrialisation Initiative (AGII). Lessons from implementation underscored that strong political commitment, reliable data, institutional capacity, and private sector engagement are essential to sustain momentum. Resource constraints and uneven national capacity remain challenges, requiring technical support and predictable funding.

Going forward, priorities include completing negotiations on Rules of Origin, Investment Dispute Prevention and Resolution, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) annexes, and the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade. The Secretariat will also focus on institutional strengthening, digitalising customs systems, expanding AfCFTA Trading Companies, and fully operationalising the Adjustment Fund. Deepening private sector participation, promoting green industrialisation, and advancing digital trade will remain central to building a dynamic, inclusive, and fully integrated African market.

3.2.2 Digital Transformation Strategy

The African Union’s digital transformation will be driven through comprehensive Digital Education and Digital Transformation Strategies. These frameworks enable nations to build critical digital infrastructure while developing citizens’ basic, intermediate, and advanced digital skills – empowering broader access to digital services, participation in data economies, and enhanced business opportunities. Progress should be tracked through four (4) key metrics: population digital skill levels; internet access growth disaggregated by gender, user level and rural coverage; regional internet exchange points/data centres established; and Member States implementing continental digital strategies nationally.

A DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED CONTINENT FOR PROSPERITY AND INCLUSIVITY



Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020-2030)

The AUC accelerated the implementation of the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030), establishing stronger coordination and monitoring systems across the continent. Through the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework and its online data tool, adopted by 35 AU Member States, Africa gained a unified platform to track digital progress and align national policies.

Key advances included strengthening the Continental Cybersecurity Strategy to address growing threats, advancing implementation of the AU Data Policy Framework with 22 AU Member States, and adopting the AU Interoperability Framework for Digital ID to promote secure cross-border services. The year also saw the adoption of the Continental Strategy on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and a High-Level Dialogue on AI for Africa's Prosperity, reinforcing Africa's digital leadership and global engagement.¹⁹

Together, these milestones positioned Africa to harness digital transformation as a driver of productivity, competitiveness, and inclusive growth, while underscoring the importance of investment in cybersecurity, digital skills, and data sovereignty.

Under **AUDA-NEPAD's African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (ASTII)** and STISA-2034, STI policies were enhanced in the Togolese Republic, the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Republic of Mali, and the Republic of Rwanda, supported by a CAD50 million commitment from the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI). Through the Calestous Juma Executive Dialogue (CJED) and African Union High Level Panel on Emerging Technologies (APET), more than 350 policymakers and scientists were trained in Science Diplomacy, while 120 youth innovators received targeted support to scale their ideas. Partnerships with the AU, AfDB, and BADEA further deepened collaboration, and over EUR25 million was mobilised to boost research and development and strengthen innovation ecosystems.

3.2.3 Transport Connectivity

African nations must enhance the implementation of key connectivity initiatives, including the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the Trans-African Highway Network (10 priority corridors), the African Integrated Railway Network (13 pilot links), port efficiency studies, the Continental Smart Ports Forum, and the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) pilot project. These integrated efforts will strengthen continental road, rail, air, and maritime networks. Progress should be measured through five (5) indicators: road construction under TAH, railway development under African Integrated Railway Network (AIRN), port efficiency gains, expanded air traffic rights, and operational multimodal corridors.²⁰



"Progress made so far with the implementation of the SAATM includes the following, in particular: (1) The creation of 113 new routes, including nineteen in operation with fifth freedom traffic rights. (2) The number of passengers transported along these new routes is estimated at over three million. (3) An increase in connectivity by 23%, compared to 19% in 2023; and (4) The signing of more than 80 bilateral air service agreements between African States."

H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé
President of The Republic of Togo
AU Champion on SAATM

¹⁹ African Union Commission (AUC). Infrastructure and Energy Directorate (IED), 2025

²⁰ African Union Commission (AUC). Infrastructure and Energy Directorate (IED), 2025.



Since 2019, 113 new intra-African routes including nineteen (19) fifth freedom traffic routes have been launched, adding USD800 million to GDP and creating 60,000 jobs.

IED SAATM and Air Transport Updates 2025

The AUC achieved notable progress in aviation, rail, road, and maritime connectivity. Under the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), liberalisation expanded to 38 signatories, with 26 AU Member States fully opening their markets. Since 2019, 113 new intra-African routes including nineteen (19) fifth freedom traffic routes have been launched, adding USD800 million to GDP and creating 60,000 jobs. The SAATM Dispute Settlement Mechanism and African Aviation Data Programme became operational, and Africa secured eight International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council seats, affirming a unified continental voice.²¹

Implementation of the African Integrated Railway Network (AIRN) advanced with 13 priority links under development, including strong progress on the Dar es Salaam–Mwanza and Mombasa–Naivasha corridors. A Railway Sector Reform Strategy and Interoperability Framework are being prepared with AUDA-NEPAD to harmonise standards and boost investment.

The African Road Safety Observatory (AfRSO) Secretariat was established, with 35 coordinators trained in digital safety data systems. A baseline survey across the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and UMA began to guide the harmonisation of road transport frameworks. Meanwhile, the African Green Ports Forum (AGPF) promoted low-carbon, climate-resilient ports aligned with the Revised Maritime Transport Charter, reinforcing Africa's pursuit of sustainable and integrated transport under Moonshot 2.

The AUC advanced Africa's infrastructure transformation under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa's Priority Action Plan (PIDA-PAP 2), the continent's framework for integrated, climate-resilient, and job-creating infrastructure.

The Luanda Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure Development (28–31 October 2025) was designed as a high-level platform to accelerate Africa's infrastructure financing agenda under the theme "Capital, Corridors, Trade: Investing in Infrastructure for the AfCFTA and Shared Prosperity". Co-organised by Angola, the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD, the Summit's objectives are to mobilise blended capital, enhance project bankability, and advance cross-border investments aligned with PIDA, Agenda 2063, and the AfCFTA. The Luanda Declaration reaffirmed Africa's commitment to mobilise domestic resources and operationalise the Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions (AAMFI) to bridge the USD130–170 billion annual financing gaps.

21 African Union Commission (AUC), Infrastructure and Energy Directorate (IED), 2025.



H.E. Lerato Dorothy Mataboge, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy (I&E)

3.2.4 Energy Security and Markets

Energy security powers Moonshot 1 and 2, by delivering reliable, affordable and clean energy needed to drive industrialisation, inclusive growth, and structural transformation. Paired with resilient infrastructure and digital connectivity, it propels all Member States towards middle-income status.

The AUC advances this through policy harmonisation, programme coordination, and technical support via five (5) Agenda 2063 flagship projects: the African Integrated Railway Network (AIRN); the Africa Single Electricity Market (AfSEM), creating the world's largest interconnected power system, serving 1.3 billion people across AU countries; the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM); the Digital Transformation Strategy; and the Cybersecurity Initiative.²²

Complementary initiatives such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) and the African Energy Efficiency Strategy (AEES) bolster energy security through cross-border power infrastructure and sector-wide efficiency gains, with progress tracked by population shares accessing reliable, affordable electricity and clean cooking solutions.

These efforts anchor infrastructure-led development, spurring trade, digital inclusion, and green industrialisation.

In 2025, the AUC proved Africa's prosperity rests on connectivity – robust power networks for households and industries, transport corridors for people and goods, and digital systems linking markets and communities. transforming Agenda 2063's Moonshots into tangible gains through strategic partnerships, forward policies, and innovative financing.

Africa's energy integration advances through the Continental Power System Masterplan, which maps critical infrastructure for a unified continent-wide electricity market. This hinges on coordinated execution of the African Single Energy Market (AfSEM) and the African Energy Efficiency Strategy to link national grids and optimise energy use. Progress tracks four (4) key indicators: operational power pools with active trading, new cross-border transmission lines completed, growth in generation capacity, and expanded oil refinery capacity.

In 2025, the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM), gained momentum, as the First High-Level Technical Meeting validated AfSEM's governance and implementation plan, while oversight structures took shape. The AUC also

²² AUC, AfSEM, AIRN, SAATM, The Digital Transformation Strategy and the Cybersecurity Initiatives – Infrastructure and Energy Directorate (IED), 2025.

launched the Ten-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan for the G20 Energy Transitions Working Group, charting Africa's roadmap for cross-border energy connectivity.

The AU Summit adopted the Continental Green Hydrogen Strategy, positioning Africa as a global clean energy hub. Supporting actions included the Africa Mini-Grid Regulation Toolkit, the first Continental Policy Dialogue on Rural Electrification, and the expansion of the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Kingdom of Eswatini. AFREC began developing a Strategy for Energy Access in African Island States to promote renewable systems.

The African Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan set targets to improve energy productivity by 50% by 2050. Preparations began for the African Energy Efficiency Alliance and Facility to mobilise USD3 billion by 2030. AFREC also validated the African Energy Transition Strategy, supporting pilot decarbonisation in the Republic of The Gambia, the Republic of Botswana, and the Republic of Madagascar. AFREC's capacity-building and data systems continue to strengthen Africa's energy transition, advancing Moonshot 1: sustainable, inclusive prosperity.²³

In 2026, the AUC will operationalise AfSEM through regulatory harmonisation, regional capacity development, and targeted investment in transmission interconnectors, while advancing the SAATM Fund and the Aviation Infrastructure Master Plan to lock in air transport liberalisation and competitiveness.

Priority actions also include finalising the PIDA Mid-term Review; expanding the Expert Service Pool to high-impact projects; deepening cybersecurity, digital ID interoperability and AI governance for secure digital transformation; scaling climate finance from Luanda and other processes; and bolstering RECs, power pools and national institutions, with a strong emphasis on gender and youth inclusion.

3.2.5 Africa's Financial Governance

The AUC bolstered Africa's economic resilience and transformation amid tightening global financial conditions, high debt burdens, and commodity volatility. Efforts focused on inclusive, sustainable financing, effective debt management, and domestic resource mobilisation to anchor macroeconomic stability and advance Agenda 2063 priorities.

Under the African Union Financial Institutions (AUFIs) flagship, progress continued toward operationalising the African Investment Bank (22 signatures, six (6) ratifications), the African Monetary Fund (12 signatures, two (2) ratifications, and a Headquarters Agreement with the Republic of Cameroon), and the African Central Bank through the revised draft Statute of the African Monetary Institute (AMI), endorsed for legal review ahead of adoption in 2026. The African Financial Stability Mechanism was also endorsed for Assembly consideration. Meanwhile, the Pan-African Stock Exchange expanded through the African Exchanges Linkage Project, now connecting 11 stock exchanges across 18 countries to enhance liquidity and investment flows.²⁴

²³ African Union Commission (AUC). AFREC, Infrastructure and Energy Directorate (IED), 2025.

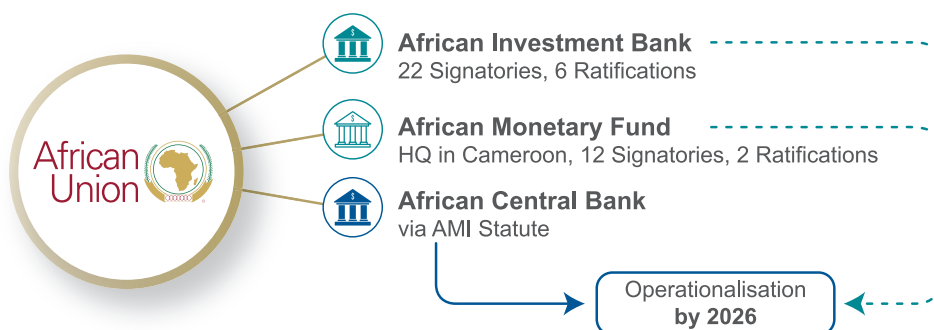
²⁴ AUC. Department for Economic Development, Trade, Tourism, Industry and Minerals (ETTIM), 2025.

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Progress regarding the African Investment Bank and the African Monetary Fund remains steady but requires accelerated action, as the Investment Bank needs nine (9) more ratifications and the Monetary Fund requires thirteen (13) more to reach the legal thresholds necessary for entry into force. Meanwhile, the Pan-African Stock Exchange is advancing through the African Exchanges Linkage Project, which has successfully connected eleven (11) stock exchanges across eighteen (18) countries to facilitate cross-border capital flow. [...] Measures intended to bolster the continent's financial independence, include the establishment of the African Credit Rating Agency with Mauritius designated as its primary jurisdiction and a projected launch in late 2026.

H.E. John Dramani Mahama
President of The Republic of Ghana
AU Champion on The AU Financial Institutions

AFRICAN UNION FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (AUFIS)



On domestic resource mobilisation and illicit financial flows (IFFs), the AUC, working with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF), and TJNA, strengthened Member States' capacity through the Fourth Sub-Committee on Tax and IFFs in Lusaka, Zambia, which addressed digital economy taxation and fiscal harmonisation for AfCFTA. Key outputs included the finalisation of the AU Tax and IFFs Strategy, a continental tax-treaty model, a policy brief on international transport taxation, and a Joint Action Plan with ATAF. The Anti-IFF Policy Tracker was piloted in five countries to identify gaps and guide reforms. Through technical briefings at the OECD, G20, and UN, the AUC ensured a unified African voice in global tax negotiations, reinforcing Africa's collective push for fairer international financial governance and sustainable economic integration.

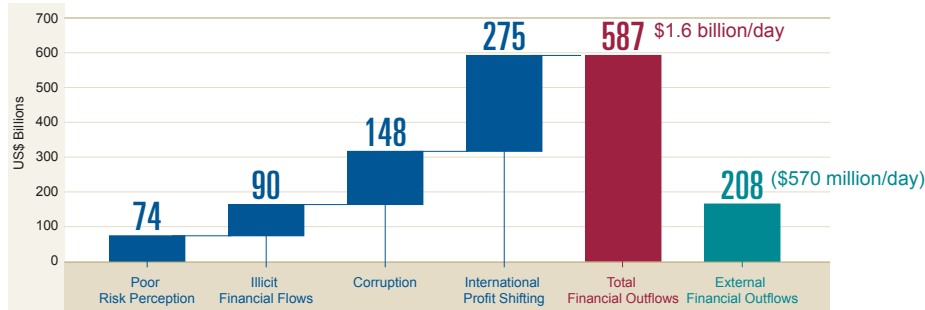
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“Mobilisation of domestic and external resources, particularly through the improvement in the rates of fiscal pressure, strengthening of pan-African financial institutions and the reform of the international financial architecture.”

H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou
Former President of The Republic of Niger
AU Champion on AfCFTA Implementation

The Lomé Declaration and the Common African Position on Debt strengthened Africa's unified call for fairer restructuring, transparency, and productive borrowing. The African Debt Monitoring Mechanism (ADMM) was endorsed to improve data and early warnings, while AU contributions to global debt forums advanced priorities such as concessional financing and debt-for-climate swaps.

FINANCIAL LEAKAGES FROM AFRICA



African Development Bank Statistics

3.3 MOONSHOT 3: PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ARE MORE RESPONSIVE

Under this Moonshot it is envisioned that by 2033, governance systems will be effective, transparent, inclusive, and citizen responsive. It seeks to deepen democracy, strengthen rule of law, improve institutional accountability, and ensure citizens have confidence in public institutions that deliver equitable services. The focus is on consolidating democratic gains, enhancing the efficiency of public administration, promoting access to justice, and embedding human rights and gender equality across governance frameworks.

Under this Moonshot, the STYIP (2024–2033) emphasises reforms to:

- Improve public service delivery and institutional capacity
- Strengthen anti-corruption frameworks and financial transparency
- Enhance citizen participation and civic engagement
- Consolidate constitutional governance and uphold rule of law
- Foster digital governance and innovation in public administration.

Specifically, AU organs are actively integrating efforts across five priority dimensions:

- Enhancing public institution accountability and oversight
- Deepening good governance and anti-corruption measures
- Strengthening human rights institutions and access to justice
- Improving social protection, migration; and
- Curbing illicit financial flows to boost domestic resource mobilisation.

3.3.1 Public Institution Accountability, Good Governance, and Democracy

Robust, independent public institutions are fundamental to good governance. Within the framework of the AU institutional ecosystem, four (4) offices contribute directly and actively to achieving this strategic objective: The Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate within the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (PAPS), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP).



President of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira

Concerning electoral processes, the AUC, under Moonshot 3, contributed to the consolidation of democratic gains through supporting peaceful transition of power in the Republic of Malawi and the Republic of Seychelles; improved the quality of governance through the promotion of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration; and capacitated Member States towards respecting human rights and rule of law.

Elections observations act as a deterrent for electoral malpractices across the continent and the AU adheres to its role in supporting the Member States. Efforts towards transparent, credible, inclusive, peaceful electoral processes were reinforced through technical assistance, capacitating institutions, stakeholders, and experts and organising observation missions. During the year, there were ten (10) pre-election assessments – the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Guinea Bissau, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Guinea, Central African Republic, the Republic of Uganda, the Gabonese Republic, and the Republic of Seychelles – and seventeen (17) election observation missions in twelve (12) Member States – the Union of the Comoros, the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Burundi, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Guinea, the Republic of Seychelles, the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Guinea Bissau, and in the Central African Republic.²⁵

The AUC contributed towards peaceful elections in the Republic of Malawi's 2025 general elections through preventive diplomacy and women candidates training. In partnership with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the AUC supported a preventive diplomacy initiative that contributed to the joint identification of regional potential triggers for election-related conflict in three (3) regions. The endorsement of a commitment to engage in dialogue to resolve and avert election conflict, the active encouragement of presidential candidates to sign a peace pledge and to comply with it, and the de-escalation of tensions ahead of the announcement of the final presidential election contributed to the incumbent conceding. The AUC also contributed to the increase in women parliamentarians through trainings, out of 204 women parliamentary candidates trained ahead of Malawi's 2025 general elections, 25 made it to Parliament.



H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) with AU elections observers

25 African Union Commission (AUC). Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), 2025.

The mandate of the APRM is to ensure that policies and practices of participating Member States conform to the agreed political, economic, and corporate governance values, codes, and standards contained in the African Union Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance.

This requires integrating APRM National Programmes into national development plans, implementing human rights interventions, conducting fact-finding missions, and strengthening Africa's human rights institutions. Progress should be measured by improved compliance with human rights standards and increased institutional transparency and accountability.

Strengthening Africa's governance requires conducting APRM reviews and supporting Member States' reform processes. Progress should be measured through seven (7) indicators: improvements in continental governance scores, implementation rates of AUCPCC recommendations, constitutional amendment support, adoption of election observation mission recommendations, submission of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) and ACVPSA state reports, transitional justice policy implementation, and reductions in continental crime rates.

Throughout the year, APRM achievements were in the four (4) APRM projects, namely, (i) Governance Reviews and Assessments, (ii) Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation, (iii) Institutional & Human Capacity Development, and (iv) Advocacy and Communication.

On Governance Reviews and Assessments for example, the following marked significant milestones to be considered:

1. The APRM tabled four (4) country review reports at the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government held in Addis Ababa on 14 February 2025: the Second Review Report of the Republic of Zambia; and targeted review reports for (i) the Republic of Senegal on "Mineral Resources at the Heart of the Transformation of the Senegalese Economy"; (ii) the Republic of Uganda on "Underdevelopment of Infrastructure, Agriculture and the Non-responsive Civil Service"; and (iii) the Togolese Republic on Urban Resilience. The reports for the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Senegal were peer reviewed at the Summit along with progress reports on the implementation of National Programmes of Action (NPOA) for the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.
2. APRM submitted Africa Governance Report 2025 (AGR 2025) on Natural Resource Governance to the 38th AU Assembly session held from 15–16 February 2025. The Report includes country consultations assessing land resource governance in the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Uganda; mineral resource governance in the Republic of Zambia, and marine resource governance/blue economy in the Republic of Seychelles. The Assembly requested integration of recommendations in AU Member States for sustainable resource management.²⁶

Further, on Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation, one of the APRM's achievements in its credit ratings advisory service was the official selection of the Republic of Mauritius as the primary jurisdiction and host of the African Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA) headquarters, following a competitive bidding process.

Additionally, the APRM trained more than 1,000 youth on South-South and Triangular Cooperation and APRM National Programmes of Action. The outcome was a cohort of empowered youth, able to follow up on implementation of APRM recommendations.



*Ambassador Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre,
CEO of APRM*

²⁶ African Union (AU). African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), 2025.



Hon. Wilson Almeida
Adão, former Chair of the
ACERWC



Hon. Sabrina Gahar,
current Chair of the
ACERWC

ACERWC is mandated to monitor the implementation of the Charter as well as promote and protect children's rights in Africa.

The ACERWC is mandated to monitor the implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child by State Parties. Key activities involve considering state reports and communications/complaints on alleged violations of the provisions of the Charter, conducting investigations and country visits, developing norms and standards through General Comments and Guidelines, researching children's rights, leading the Day of the African Child celebrations, issuing official statements, and monitoring Agenda 2040.

In 2025, the Committee's work remained firmly anchored in the AU Agenda 2063 and the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP), with strong emphasis on child protection, participation, and equitable access to education, health, and justice. The Committee also contributed to the realisation of Agenda 2040, which envisions an Africa fit for children, through direct engagement with Member States, civil society, and international partners.

Throughout the year 2025, the Committee has registered several key achievements and outcomes. With regards to monitoring implementation of the charter, ACERWC (i) conducted a follow-up mission to the Republic of Burundi (Feb 2025), facilitating dialogue with government and civil society, leading to the Republic of Burundi's submission of its periodic report; (ii) conducted bilateral advocacy forums with the Republic of Kenya and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on reporting and implementation; (iii) launched two (2) major continental studies: Implementation of Decisions and Recommendations of the ACERWC and Climate Change and Children's Rights in Africa. The session also featured panel discussions on child protection, climate change, and violence against children; (iv) adopted two General Comments on Article 11 (Right to Education) and Article 25 (Children without Parental Care); and (v) considered two Communications (No. 021 against the Republic of Malawi and No. 024 against the Republic of Botswana), reinforcing its quasi-judicial mandate.²⁷

On Strategic and Policy Advancements, it has completed the evaluation of the 2021–2025 Strategic Plan, and outlined lessons and achievements to inform the new 2026–2028 plan. In response to AU Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1201(XLII), the Committee developed the AU Child Safeguarding Policy, adopted in February 2025.



"Africa accounts for 1 in 3 child marriages globally; with the exponential population growth, the prevalence of child marriage projected to reach nearly 50 percent of the world's child brides by 2050. Progress to ending child marriages must be 20 times faster to meet the SDG target of ending child marriage by 2030."

H.E. Hakainde Hichilema
President of The Republic of Zambia
AU Champion on Ending Child Marriage

Regarding Onsite Investigation/Fact-Finding Mission on Child Rights in Member States, the Committee conducted an onsite investigation in the Federal Republic of Nigeria (July 2025) concerning children affected by witchcraft accusations.

²⁷ African Union (AU). African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), 2025.

Further on Regional Cooperation and Capacity Building, ACERWC organised a two-day Child Rights Symposium (June 2025) in Addis Ababa, engaging six (6) Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to review implementation, violence, harmful practices, and child protection frameworks, and hosted a Symposium on Litigating Children's Rights (October 2025), promoting capacity-building for practitioners.

Consequently, in addition to these key highlights of the year and despite some challenges related to sufficient resources, availability of data/reports, and domestication that hindered the full efficiency of the Committee in conducting its work and mandate, interesting successes and impacts can be captured:

- The follow-up mission to the Republic of Burundi resulted in renewed government commitment and the submission of its periodic report.
- The Federal Republic of Somalia deposited its instrument of ratification, bringing total ratifications to 52. This represented a continental milestone, bringing Africa closer to universal adherence.
- The Arab Republic of Egypt's first and the Republic of Kenya's third periodic reports underscored strengthened national accountability, and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania submitted its second periodic report, reflecting the Committee's continued success in strengthening Member States' compliance with the Charter.

Additionally, the importance of having effective public administration and service delivery has a direct correlation with conflict prevention. The African Charter on the Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration, adopted in 2011 and entered into force in 2016, remains a critical instrument in guiding the transformation of public sector institutions to uphold the ideals of an efficient, transparent, and accountable public administration. By enabling Member States to use the State Party Assessment Tool, the AU ensured the Charter's principles are not only adopted but also effectively implemented, evaluated, and enhanced to meet the needs of citizens – by capacitating Member States in their self-evaluation. Towards this, five (5) countries, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Zambia, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Republic of Benin, and the Republic of Rwanda were supported.²⁸

3.3.2 Fight Against Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows

The African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC), places the fight against corruption at the core of good governance. Through the implementation of its 2025 work plan, the Board has achieved significant milestones in advancing the ratification, domestication, and regional cooperation on anti-corruption.

Progress on the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) has been notable, with the Republic of Cabo Verde and the Central African Republic signing the Convention. The Central African Republic further ratified the treaty, becoming a State Party. This brings the total number of signatures to 50 and ratifications to 49, representing an 89% ratification rate. In the area of domestication, the Republic of Ghana submitted its compliance report in May 2025. A subsequent review by the AUABC in June highlighted both strides and gaps, leading to the Republic of Ghana's commitment to key legislative reforms, including a Lifestyle Audit Bill and new legislation to criminalise illicit enrichment. This process has generated valuable knowledge on effective anti-corruption strategies.



*Hon. Kwami Edem Senanu,
Chairperson of AUABC*

²⁸ African Union (AU). African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC).

To strengthen regional frameworks, the Board supported the operationalisation of the Network of Central African Anti-Corruption Authorities (RINAC) under the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). This support has made the regional mechanism functional, increasing collaboration between Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the AUABC. A direct outcome of this intervention was the ratification of the AUCPCC by the Central African Republic in July 2025.

A major focus remains combating illicit financial flows (IFFs), which drains Africa's resources through the illegal movement of money, goods, and people. Progress should be measured through indicators such as the implementation of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery, reduced financial losses, stronger governance in tax and extractive industries, and updated national frameworks for crime prevention. Curbing IFFs is essential for building a strong Domestic Resource Mobilisation base to finance Agenda 2063. In 2025, the African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration with UNECA, ATAF, and TJNA, strengthened Member State capacity through several actions.

These included convening the 4th Sub-Committee on Tax and Illicit Financial Flows in Lusaka, Zambia, from 5 to 9 May 2025, where Member States discussed international tax negotiations and digital economy taxation, with outcomes adopted by the 8th STC-FMAEPI. Key policy instruments were also developed, such as a policy brief on taxing international traffic, a continental tax-treaty negotiation model advanced with ATAF, and a finalised AU Tax and IFFs Strategy which has been introduced in the Republic of Ghana and the Republic of Kenya and implemented in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and the Republic of Liberia. A Joint Action Plan with ATAF is also under development. Furthermore, the AUC piloted its Anti-IFF Policy Tracker in five countries – the Republic of Namibia, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Ghana, and the Republic of Uganda, with the Republic of Cabo Verde to follow, using the tool to identify legal and institutional gaps that enable illicit flows.

3.3.3 Human and Peoples' Rights

Advancing human rights across Africa requires sustained advocacy with Member States on key treaties and instruments. Progress should be measured through four (4) indicators: improved implementation of AU human rights decisions; increased Member State promotion of democratic governance; production and dissemination of interpretive instruments; and expanded access to the African Human Rights Court.



83rd Ordinary Session Held in Banjul on 2–22 May 2025

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) is charged with three (3) major functions: the protection of human and peoples' rights, the promotion of human and peoples' rights and the interpretation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Between January and December 2025 ACHPR achieved critical milestones in advancing African Union (AU) priorities under Moonshot 3. These efforts focused on enhancing institutional responsiveness, expanding stakeholder engagement, and advancing governance grounded in human rights.



Opening remarks by H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf during the 83rd Ordinary Session of the ACHPR from 2–22 May 2025 in Banjul, The Gambia



*Hon. Remy Ngoy Lumbu,
former Chair of ACHPR*



*Hon. Idrissa Sow, current
Chairperson of ACHPR*

Through its protection mandate, ACHPR processed about 29 communications, achieving 72.5% of its year target, thus reinforcing its role as a credible redress mechanism for rights violations. The Commission reached about 3,456 African citizens via targeted digital campaigns, media appearances, and forums, a visibility milestone that surpassed expectations by 288%. Further, ACHPR conducted about 28 strategic engagements with States, civil society organisations (CSOs), and national human rights Institutions (NHRIs), achieving 70% of its target and reinforcing collaborative platforms for action.²⁹

Promotion missions to the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Seychelles, the Kingdom of Eswatini, and the Republic of Ghana secured renewed commitments to periodic State reporting and constitutional reforms. The 82nd, 83rd, 84th and 85th Ordinary Sessions of the Commission provided critical spaces for state reviews, adoption of above ten resolutions, six (6) state reports considered at 83rd and 85th Ordinary Sessions, and robust dialogue, including through the Second Joint Special Mechanisms Forum.

Digital transformation played a pivotal role in visibility. Through multimedia tools including podcasts, videos, and live interviews, the Commission engaged over 3,456 individuals, five (5) times more than planned. The ACHPR also played a key legal advisory role in aligning the draft Model Law on Gender Equality with the Maputo Protocol. Institutional engagement with the Pan-African Parliament is set to be formalised via an MoU. Finally, the Uwazi Library launch has transformed public access to ACHPR's legal documents, strengthening civil society, empowering researchers, and increasing institutional transparency.

²⁹ African Union (AU). The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), 2025.



Hon. Lady Justice Imani
D. Aboud, President of the
AfCHPR



Hon. Justice Modibo
Sacko, current President of
the AfCHPR

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) is a continental court established by African countries to ensure the protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa. It complements and reinforces the functions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

In the same vein, the AfCHPR has delivered 29 decisions during the reporting period (January–December 2025), advancing justice and promoting human rights in diverse areas. Public hearings also drew significant participation from affected communities and the wider public, with the *DRC v Rwanda* hearing alone attracting over 12,000 virtual participants, underscoring the Court's growing visibility, public trust and relevance across the continent.³⁰

Furthermore, during its 77th Session, the African Court convened a Public Hearing to assess the status of compliance with its 2017 and 2022 judgements in favour of the Ogiek community of the Republic of Kenya in the case of *African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights v Republic of Kenya*, underscoring the Court's role to uphold accountability at the continental level by affirming the rights of the Ogiek people to ancestral land and calling for legislative reform.³¹

Beyond these historic cases, the African Court, through its broader body of decisions, continues to play a unifying role in fostering continental legal integration. Its influence has extended significantly to national legal systems. Specifically, landmark decisions of the Court have been cited by the highest national courts and have inspired the creation of new human rights laws in various AU Member States. This direct impact contributes significantly to Moonshot 2, ensuring that Africa becomes more integrated and connected.

Despite its role in overseeing human rights effectiveness across the continent, the Court is facing critical challenges related to (i) the low level of ratifications and declarations of the Protocol and the (ii) low level of implementation and compliance. Nonetheless, a positive step has been the appointment, by over 21 AU Member States, of National Focal Points to liaise with the Court on implementation matters, following a decision by the Executive Council.

The restoration of human rights is also a huge component in reparatory justice following conflicts related to non-democratic regimes. Therefore, the strategic deployment of an AU reparative justice expert to The Republic of the Gambia has been instrumental in the operationalisation of the national Reparations Commission. This direct technical support yielded concrete results, including the establishment of the Commission's foundational governance framework, finalising Terms of Reference for all its committees and working groups, and the development of essential operational tools such as victim statement-taking forms.

30 African Union (AU). The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR), 2025.

31 African Union (AU). The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR), 2025.

3.3.4 Humanitarian Affairs, Labour, Employment, Social Protection, and Migration

Humanitarian Situation in Africa

The year 2025 has been a year full of uncertainties, wherein a shift in the global humanitarian architecture mounted upon existing humanitarian crises that have been tormenting the African continent over the past years. In 2025, over 50 million people in Africa have been forcibly displaced, including 34.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 13 million refugees, 4.2 million returnees and 1 million stateless persons.³²

In particular, the two-year long conflict in the Republic of the Sudan has maintained its status as the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with over 12 million forcibly displaced persons.



H.E. Amma Adoma Twum-Amoah, Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS)



Distribution of humanitarian assistance items for Sudanese refugees in the Republic of South Sudan

The AUC, in line with the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1282(XLVI) of February 2025, and the Malabo Plan of Action (2023–2032) that guides its work, has implemented and supported the implementation of various activities to alleviate the plight of refugees, returnees, and IDPs through:

- Strengthening Member States' capacities in domestication of frameworks on humanitarian challenges, such as the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the African Disasters Managers Platform (ADMAP), and the Humanitarian Diplomacy Framework
- Support to the activities of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees & Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- Humanitarian Assessment Mission to the Republic of South Sudan. Outcomes: the launch of the school structure in GOROM Refugee Camp, the official move from norm practices to pragmatic implementation of relief, and the observation of continuous response to humanitarian challenges
- Humanitarian Assessment Mission to the Republic of Mozambique. Outcomes: the official move from norm practices to pragmatic implementation of relief and the observation of continuous response to humanitarian challenges

³² African Union (AU). Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS), 2025.

- Humanitarian Assessment Missions to the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Uganda, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Republic of Chad, to assess and provide support in humanitarian relief to forcibly displaced populations affected by the conflicts in the DRC and Sudan
- Humanitarian Assessment Missions to Sudan and DRC/Burundi, to deploy a Humanitarian Assessment Team, composed of experts voluntarily contributed by Member States, and supported by the Commission, in line with the Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1282(XLVI)
- Humanitarian Assessment Missions to the Republic of the Niger, the Republic of Mali, and the People's Republic of Burkina Faso

Looking forward to 2026, the AUC will follow up on:

- a. The HDPN approach: The humanitarian challenges in Africa demand innovative, localised and coordinated approaches that integrate the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN), bridging immediate relief with long-term and sustainable solutions.
- b. The African Humanitarian Agency (AfHA): Operationalisation of AfHA is a powerful opportunity to meet these ends, and expediting the process is highly recommended. While setting up the Agency on the ground passes through the necessary steps, it is also mandatory to work on the software component, i.e., formulating the operational frameworks and standard operating procedures (SOPs), which is already in the pipeline.
- c. Strengthening partnerships: It is recommended to jointly approach the options to overcome funding challenges, and to unite fragmented efforts.

Activities were also conducted in the areas of social protection and migration. Effective social protection and migration management require implementing the Africa Regional Social Protection Policy and Migration Strategies.

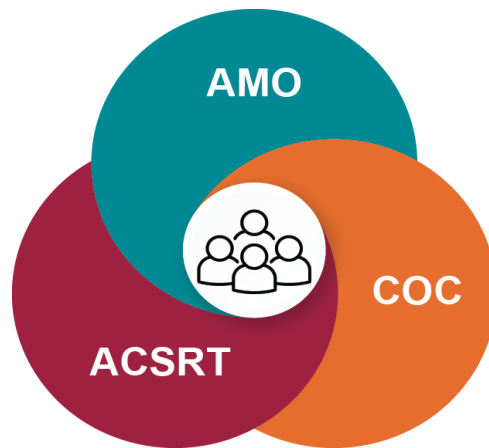
Focusing on social protection in its different aspects, the AUC has finalised the Draft Model Law on Online Child Safety, designed to support Member States in establishing comprehensive regulatory frameworks for safer digital environments, such as cyberbullying and online sexual exploitation and abuse, thereby enhancing national capacities to safeguard children in cyberspace.

On the other hand, the AUC, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Botswana and development partners, convened a Continental Consultation on Synthetic Drug Supply Reduction from 25–27 August 2025 in Gaborone, Botswana. The Gaborone Consultation resulted in the adoption of the Gaborone Strategic Framework for Action.

To safeguard vulnerable populations and address these systemic inequalities, the AU Social Agenda 2063 and the Social Protection Protocol provide the necessary frameworks. These instruments aim to institutionalise comprehensive social programmes, with success measured by the extent of public awareness, the adoption of continental protection strategies for vulnerable groups, and the tangible realisation of the Urban Agenda.

During the period under review, the AUC continued to strengthen migration governance in Africa focused on promoting migration and mobility data and knowledge to advance regional integration and sustainable development.

HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL PROTECTION AND MIGRATION



In 2025, the African Migration Observatory (AMO) made significant strides in enhancing migration governance across Africa through strategic interventions in capacity building, regional collaboration, and global advocacy. With over 30 activities, including workshops and training sessions (in the Republic of Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Republic of Djibouti).

AMO advanced continental integration and strengthened Africa's global voice through strategic partnerships, innovation, and advocacy. In collaboration with IOM Morocco under the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) initiative, AMO developed key tools, including the AU-AMO Glossary of Migration Terms, a capacity-building roadmap, and a standardised migration data module.

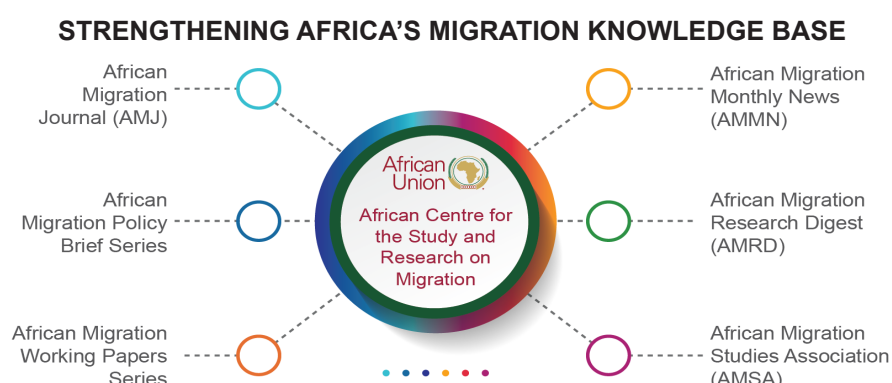
AMO deepened collaborations through bilateral engagements with Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS), the EU Delegation in the Kingdom of Morocco, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ICESCO), KAS, CNDH, IOM, UNHCR, UNDESA, UNODC, Geneva University, Graduate Institute, CCCPA and judicial networks, expanding its multisectoral approach.

Further, AMO addressed emerging issues such as the feminisation of migration, children's rights protection, and climate-induced migration through the *Climate Mobility Workshop* in Morocco and the *Africa Satellite Navigation Conference* in Cabo Verde, emphasising innovation for resilience.

In collaboration with STATAFRIC, AMO has been working on joint projects relating to the harmonisation of statistics terminology as well as collaborating with the Republic of Mali (ACSRM) and Khartoum, Sudan (COC) centres in crosscutting issues.

The African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration (ACSRM) is an African Union Commission (AUC) specialised agency devoted to strengthening research, studies, analysis, training, and policies of all aspects of Africa's migration. It aims to strengthen the overall migration governance regime in Africa, enhance the knowledge base on migration and mobility in Africa, and contribute to well-evidenced and well-informed policies and interventions on migration in Africa.

The ACSRM has initiated various activities to enhance understanding of Africa's migration trends and patterns, strengthen African migration researchers' and experts' international visibility, and facilitate policy dialogues between policymakers, researchers, and experts to address Africa's pressing migration problems.



The Continental Operational Centre (COC) is a specialised centre of the AU to combat irregular migration in Africa, with a particular focus on the prevention and combating of irregular migration, particularly trafficking in persons (TIP) and the smuggling of migrants (SOM) in Africa.

Complementing the AU's collective efforts to security and development in Africa, as well as to intensify cooperation among Member States, and integration of the continent, the COC supports national and regional level efforts in combating irregular migration, in particular TIP and SOM, while at the same time strengthening relevant national Law Enforcement Agencies and Institutions to build capacity to respond to TIP and SOM within their national jurisdictions.

In addition, the COC supports other existing initiatives on migration, notably: the African COC for the Study and Research on Migration, the African Migration Observatory, the AU-Horn of Africa Initiative, the Africa-Arab Technical Coordination Committee on Migration, the Khartoum Process, and the Rabat Process.

The COC has strengthened collaboration with the AU Regions, Regional Economic Communities, and Member States to finalise nominations of experts to serve on the COC Board. The COC has, to date, consolidated the list of nominations received from Member States, RECs, and Regions to strengthen the COC's governance structure. The nominated Board Members will be presented to the STC on Migration, Refugees, and Internally Displaced Persons for approval, thereby strengthening the Centre's governance to steer strategic direction.

In collaboration with the HHS Department, capacity building was provided to Member States' Law Enforcement Agencies as part of the preparation of the joint law enforcement operation, code named "Masa". This is a joint operation between Member States, AFRIPOL, Interpol, and the Regional Police Chiefs targeting irregular migration, particularly TIP and SOM on the Southern Route.

The COC will, in the 2026, convene the COC Board to consider draft strategic documents and provide strategic guidance for future programming.

On labour and employment, during the reporting period, the development of the Youth Employment Strategy for Africa (YES-Africa), which was adopted during the AU Summit in February 2025, has been finalised. The strategy is aimed at

creating decent jobs for African youth and transforming the continent by addressing the continent's youth unemployment through increased access to education and training, entrepreneurship, innovation, as well as job creation. YES-Africa will be delivered through structural transformation and sectoral approaches, economic integration, just transition to inclusive green and digital economies, labour market policies and skills development, and economic empowerment.

Once fully implemented, YES-Africa will achieve the following:³³

- Create 25 million jobs for African Youth over the next decade
- Equip 50 million youth with a mix of soft and hard skills to increase their employability and entrepreneurial skills
- Reduce youth unemployment in Africa and promote innovation and inclusive growth.

3.3.5 Strengthened, Harmonised Data and Statistics

STATAFRIC and PANSTAT are the two (2) specialised agencies in charge of African Union data and statistics efforts, coordinating closely with all AU institutions to fully align with Agenda 2063.

STATAFRIC amplified Africa's voice in global forums like the UN Statistical Commission, World Bank Spring Meeting, and UN Regional HUB for Big Data, while advancing harmonisation through eight (8) new Specialised Technical Groups (STGs) operationalised in 2025 – reaching 13 of 18 (72%).³⁴ It launched 20 technical consultancies for continent-wide statistical guidelines, supported national statistical offices (NSOs) in the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Chad, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Guinea (ICBT guidelines), the Republic of Botswana (Eurotrace), DRC/Zambia (mirror and reconciliation), plus missions for National Accounts (the Republic of Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe), food balance sheets (the Republic of Malawi), and census linkages. The Migration and Displacement Statistics Guidelines were finalised as a landmark harmonisation tool.

STATAFRIC propelled national strategies for the development of statistics (NSDS) and regional strategies for the development of statistics (RSDS) via capacity building and peer reviews in the Republic of Seychelles, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Republic of the Gambia, and the People's Republic of Burkina Faso. The African Charter on Statistics (ACS), adopted in 2009, now has 30 ratifications, with a draft legal instrument due by December 2025 to power evidence-based policymaking for Agenda 2063/2030.

Capacity building surged with four e-learning modules on trade statistics (ITSS fundamentals/advanced), a dedicated platform with AU Human Resources, training for 51 NSS staff (26 women) from 10 countries on NADABAS/ERETES national accounts tools, and leadership training for 30 NSO Directors General in Nairobi. Five (5) young African statisticians (two (2) women) from the Togolese Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of South Africa, and the Republic of Kenya showcased innovations at the 2025 World Statistics Congress, plus subregional health financial protection training.

STATAFRIC's statutory meetings drove coordination: the 7th Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA) Executive Committee assessed progress and issued harmonisation recommendations; ASCC enhanced regional

³³ African Union (AU). Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS), 2025.

³⁴ African Union (AU). African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC), 2025.

synergies under the Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF); CoDGs fostered NSO peer learning; and the Casablanca Forum on Administrative Data (July 2025, EU/ECA/HCP, funded by the Kingdom of Morocco) broke silos to accelerate Agenda 2063/2030 under the Pan African Statistics Programme (PAS II).

3.4 MOONSHOT 4: AFRICA RESOLVES CONFLICTS PEACEFULLY



H.E. Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) and H.E. Amb. Mohamed El-Amine Souef, Chief of Staff of H.E. AUC Chairperson

“Creating a generation of engaged and empowered Youth as a strategic objective and a foundational element for achieving all of the continent’s ambitions and aspirations, as per the Second Ten-year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 (2024-2033).”

H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye
President of The Republic of Burundi
AU Champion for The Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

”

This Moonshot aims to achieve a continent free from violent conflict, where disputes are resolved through dialogue, mediation, and African-led mechanisms, anchored in the principle of “Silencing the Guns”. It envisions stronger peace and security institutions, effective early warning and preventive diplomacy, enhanced post-conflict reconstruction, and inclusive approaches to peacebuilding that address root causes such as governance deficits, inequality, and youth marginalisation.

The STYIP (2024–2033) reinforces this aspiration through specific targets to:

- Reduce violent conflicts and political crises
- Strengthen the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and African Governance Architecture (AGA) linkages
- Operationalise the African Standby Force (ASF) and enhance rapid deployment capacity
- Improve early warning/early response mechanisms under the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS)
- Deepen post-conflict reconstruction and development through the AU PCRDP Policy Framework, and
- Promote African-led mediation and peacekeeping interventions.
- Achieving the objectives of this Moonshot has entailed implementing actions that focused on:
 - Peace, security, and stability
 - AU-led and AU-supported conflict management
 - Peace and Security Council’s enhanced activities
 - Conflict prevention mechanisms and tools, and
 - Sustainable security.



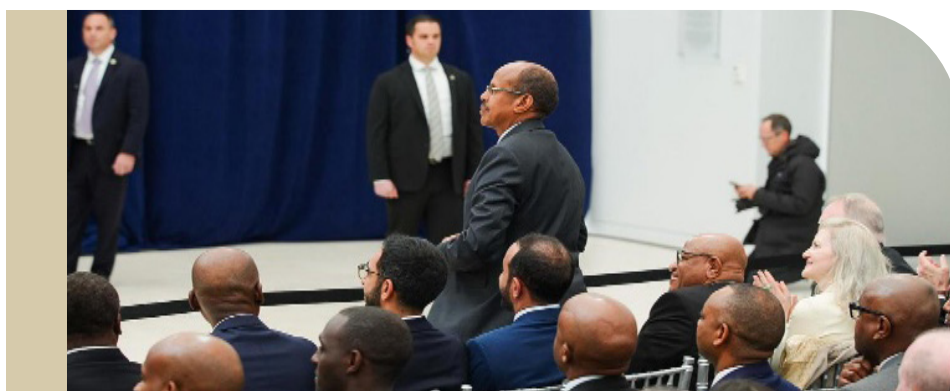
Fourth edition of the annual training of short-term election observers – 21 April 2025, Rabat, Morocco

3.4.1 Peace, Security, and Stability

In 2025, significant progress was made in reducing violent conflicts and political crises through multiple interventions. The AUC commemorated the 9th Africa Amnesty Month, encouraging voluntary surrender of illicit arms and addressing drivers of arms proliferation with national programmes. Enhanced ownership of the AU Border Programme by Member States helped structurally prevent conflicts and promote continental integration, exemplified by treaties and border infrastructure development in countries like the Republic of Senegal, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Ghana, and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.

Capacity-building initiatives targeted conflict-affected regions, such as a programme in Mogadishu, Somalia, in April 2025, where stakeholders were trained on the revised AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy focusing on political governance transition, security sector reforms, women, peace and security, human rights, and transitional justice. In Madagascar, a dialogue with women and youth stakeholders developed a roadmap to amplify their roles in peacebuilding and governance.

Institutional strengthening continued with the reactivation of the PCRD Sub-Committee in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, knowledge-sharing engagements in the Republic of Rwanda to align regional policies, and the validation of Mental Health Psychosocial Support guidelines pending AU endorsement. Youth training on PCRD and peacebuilding was held in Cairo, empowering young ambassadors for peace across Africa. The 5th edition of the AU PCRD Awareness Week focused on rebuilding lives through reparative justice, enhancing public awareness, and stakeholder engagement.



H.E. Chairperson of the AUC attending the signing of an agreement between the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Rwanda in Washington, D.C., United States of America (USA)

The Revised AU PCRD Policy has served as a cornerstone in African Union efforts towards promoting peace, security and development. [...] The Fifth edition of Aswan under the theme “A World in Flux, A Continent in Motion: Navigating Africa’s Progress Amid Global Shifts.” held on 19-20 October 2025.

H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi
President of The Arab Republic of Egypt
AU Champion on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD)

”

3.4.2 AU-Led and AU-Supported Conflict Management



Official visit of H.E. Chairperson of the AUC to the Federal Republic of Somalia

Effective conflict management through AU-led mediation, peace operations, and dialogue remains critical for continental stability. Member States must prioritise peace support operations, counter-terrorism efforts, quick impact projects, and combating organised crime. Success should be measured by conflict reduction rates, increased Peace Fund contributions, and improved budget execution for these initiatives.

This Moonshot focuses on Africa resolving conflicts peacefully, aiming for a continent free of violent conflict where disputes are settled through African-led dialogue, mediation, and mechanisms anchored in “Silencing the Guns”. The goal is to strengthen peace and security institutions, operationalise the African Standby Force (ASF), enhance early warning and preventive diplomacy through CEWS, deepen post-conflict reconstruction within the AU PCRD Policy Framework, and promote African-led mediation and peacekeeping interventions.

In 2025, despite challenges including rising violent extremism in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, and instability in Republic of the Sudan and the Sahel corridor, the African Union and RECs continued critical roles in regional mediation and peace operations. Successful mediation efforts included the 2022 Pretoria Agreement in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Lusaka Peace Accords in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), though implementation remains fragile. The AU supports or co-leads over 10 peace operations, including the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) in the Federal Republic of Somalia and the East African Regional Force in DRC.

Institutional strengthening advanced, notably the APSA pillars: the AU Peace Fund surpassed USD400 million capitalisation, boosting African self-financing of peace efforts, although the ASF’s operational readiness varies due to financial and logistical limitations. CEWS expanded its data analytics capabilities and integration with national and regional centres, improving response times to potential crises by 20% since 2019, although political will to act on early warnings remains inconsistent.³⁵

The AU Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) Policy implementation accelerated through Centres of Excellence in Cairo and Yaoundé. AU missions deployed to the Republic of the Sudan, the Federal Republic of

“

The AU Peace Fund surpassed USD400 million capitalisation, boosting African self-financing of peace efforts

H.E. Mahmoud Ali
Youssef
Chairperson of the AUC,
27th INTERPOL African
Regional Conference

³⁵ African Union (AU). Peace Fund Secretariat (PFS), 2025.

Somalia, the Republic of Mozambique, and the Central African Republic have focused on institutional rebuilding, reconciliation, and reintegration of displaced populations.

Additional peace and security advancements in 2025 included the AU Centre for PCRD's operationalisation, capacity-building programmes in the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Republic of Madagascar, reactivation of the PCRD Sub-Committee, awareness and policy alignment workshops across AU Organs and RECs/RMs, validation of mental health psychosocial support guidelines, and inaugural youth training on peacebuilding in Cairo. The 5th edition of the AU PCRD Awareness Week, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Cairo, Egypt emphasised rebuilding lives through reparative justice and reinforcing peacebuilding networks continent-wide.



AFRIPOL - Operation TAPI II

The African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) reinforced continental policing by consolidating its AU Organ status with institutional reforms enhancing governance and accountability. AFRIPOL coordinated major cross-border operations targeting drug trafficking, terrorism, cybercrime, and environmental crimes, involving over 30 countries, and delivered capacity-building training to over 350 officers from 42 AU Member States. Technological innovation progressed with the AFSECOM secure police communication system linking 42 National Liaison Offices, providing real-time encrypted data exchange supporting rapid joint investigations.³⁶

Strategic partnerships with INTERPOL, German Federal Police, UNODC, and others intensified multilateral coordination against transnational crimes. Key lessons from 2025 include addressing AFRIPOL's staffing deficit, securing predictable core funding, accelerating digital transformation and data integration, institutionalising operational impact metrics, and concluding strategies on counter-terrorism and organised crime.

Success stories like Operation Djembé in West Africa demonstrated the effectiveness of coordinated law enforcement, resulting in major seizures and arrests. AFRIPOL's expansion of its e-learning platform to over 1,200 officers in multiple languages enhanced policing capabilities continent-wide.

³⁶ African Union (AU). The African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), 2025.

3.4.3 Peace and Security Council's Enhanced Activities

Throughout the year, the Council's monthly chairmanship rotated among twelve (12) Member States, ensuring balanced regional leadership and perspectives. A significant institutional milestone was the induction of new and re-elected members, the Republic of Cameroon, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Kingdom of Eswatini, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, in April 2025, reinforcing the Council's continuity and capacity. The Committee of Experts and the Military Staff Committee similarly underwent induction and capacity-building programmes, enhancing their technical support to the Council's work. Additionally, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) strengthened its collaborative frameworks, highlighted by the inaugural Joint Consultative Meeting with the Pan-African Parliament in July and the second meeting with the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council in May, which fostered greater synergy within the African Peace and Security Architecture.

The Council remained actively engaged with multiple conflict and crisis situations across the continent, maintaining vigilant oversight of the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Sudan, the Republic of South Sudan, the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin region, and the Federal Republic of Somalia.

In overseeing political transitions, the Peace and Security Council actively engaged with nations navigating post-crisis periods. Notably, it welcomed the successful conclusion of the transition in the Gabonese Republic and lifted its suspension from AU activities. The Council also undertook a field mission to the Republic of Guinea to underscore the critical importance of adhering to established electoral timelines. In response to unconstitutional changes of government – first in the Republic of Madagascar in October, and later in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in November – the Council acted decisively by suspending both countries from AU activities and calling for the swift restoration of constitutional order.

The Council dedicated substantial attention to foundational themes impacting continental peace and security, including conflict prevention under the "Silencing the Guns" initiative, the Women and Youth, Peace, and Security agendas, the climate-security nexus, governance and human rights, and humanitarian action combined with maritime security.

PSC CHAIRSHIP BY MONTH:

No.	Month	Chairing Country
1	January	Côte d'Ivoire
2	February	Equatorial Guinea
3	March	Morocco
4	April	Uganda (Stand-in Chair)
5	May	Sierra Leone
6	June	Tanzania
7	July	Uganda
8	August	Algeria
9	September	Angola
10	October	Botswana
11	November	Cameroon
12	December	Côte d'Ivoire

3.4.4 Conflict Prevention Mechanisms and Tools

In 2025, the African Union demonstrated strong progress despite ongoing conflicts. The AU and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) played pivotal roles in mediation, more than 10 peace operations are supported or co-led by the AU.

The Peace Fund Secretariat strengthened its institutional foundations, enhanced its financial base, and forged strategic partnerships to advance African-led peace initiatives. The Fund's governance structure is now fully operational, marked by the appointment and inaugural meetings of the Independent Evaluation Group and the maintenance of a fully constituted Board of Trustees. A transparent procurement process was also completed to onboard four (4) fund managers and a custodian bank, ensuring robust financial stewardship.

Financially, the Fund solidified its resources, achieving a total balance of USD415.5 million by December 2025, which was attained before the policy organ's disbursements approval was made in 2025. Member State contributions reached USD348.9 million, fulfilling 87% of the initial USD400 million endowment target. This financial stability is further supported by proceeds from the legacy fund, partner contributions, and earned interest. A proactive, multi-stakeholder resource mobilisation strategy was successfully implemented, generating over USD219 million in commitments to be made available from partners within 3-5 years. Landmark agreements, such as a USD205 million crisis management programme with Afreximbank (part of the USD219 million commitments) and the development of an innovative blockchain-based contribution platform, were finalised to diversify and modernise funding streams. Key African institutions, including Ethiopian Airlines, Afreximbank, Standard Bank, AfricaRe, Ecobank, Africa Trade Insurance Agency (ATIDI), and United Bank of Africa, have begun disbursing their first instalments in total sum of USD3,773,973.43. The Secretariat also effectively promoted the Fund's mission at major international forums.³⁷

"The need exists for the full operationalisation of the African Union Peace Fund, as well as the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2719, concerning the financing of Peace Support Operations."

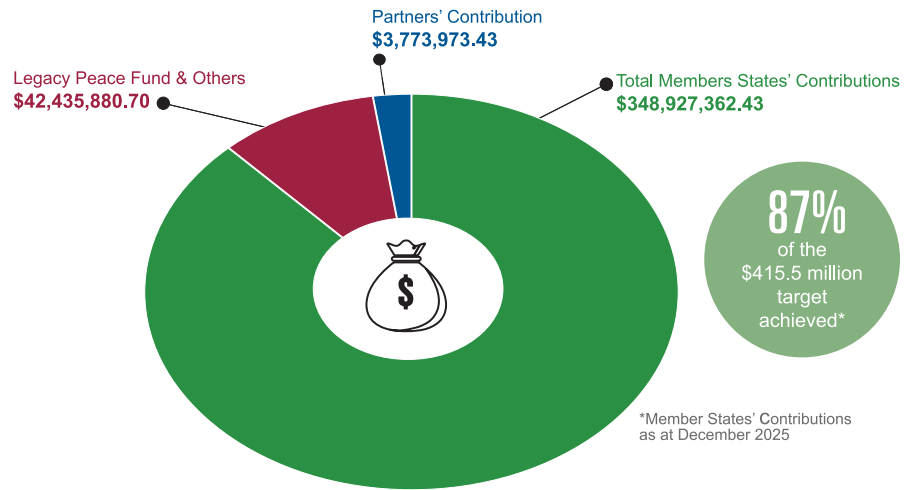
H.E. João Manuel
Gonçalves Lourenço
President of The
Republic of Angola AU
Champion on Peace and
Reconciliation in Africa

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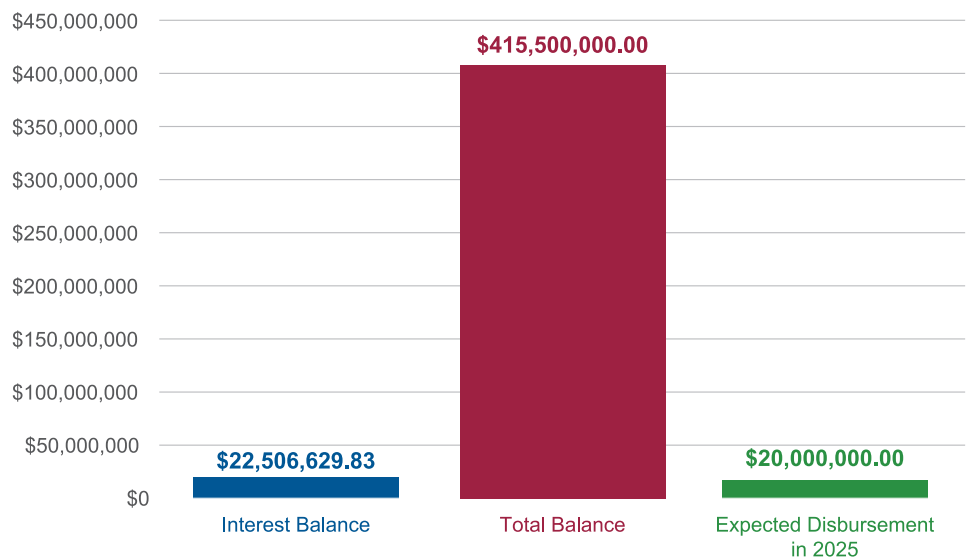
In 2025, the **Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security** implemented key actions under its mandate. The WPS and Continental Results Framework (CRF) Training and Research Workshop, held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, reviewed progress and identified gaps in implementation. The Office launched a Digital CRF Reporting Platform for 2024 National Action Plans, with 20 Member States submitting reports: Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, the Republic of Ghana, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Liberia, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Namibia, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Senegal, the Republic Seychelles, the Republic of Sierra Leone, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of South Sudan, and the Republic of Uganda. A Solidarity Mission to the Republic of South Sudan consulted women leaders during the transitional period and preparations for the December 2026 elections, identifying priority actions under the Revitalised Peace Agreement. The Office supported follow-up on the Tunis Declaration and its Call to Action from the 6th High-Level Africa Forum on Women, Peace and Security, and called for strengthened institutional support for implementation across Member States.

37 African Union. Peace Fund Secretariat (AUPFS), 2025.

AFRICAN UNION PEACE FUND SECRETARIAT (AUPFS)



FUND POSITION, GROWTH, AND PLANNED DISBURSEMENT



The year provided valuable insights. The full operationalisation of governance bodies has proven essential for credibility and oversight, while sustained engagement with private and institutional partners is critical for sustainable funding. Exploring innovative avenues like sports diplomacy and financial technology holds significant potential to broaden reach and efficiency. However, limited staffing and operational budgets constrain the ability to maximise these engagement activities at scale.

Moving forward, the AUPF will focus on intensifying collaboration with Member States to clear contribution arrears and advocate for voluntary top-ups. It will expand resource mobilisation by deepening engagement with the private sector, philanthropic networks, and the African diaspora. Concurrently, the Secretariat will enhance the Fund's visibility and continental ownership through targeted advocacy and closely monitor the performance of its newly appointed fund managers to ensure optimal resource stewardship.

3.4.5 Sustainable Security

To strengthen sustainable security, Africa will prioritise AI capacity-building for peacekeeping, climate/maritime security, security sector reform (SSR), disarmament (DDR), and partnerships with research institutions. Success should be measured by the adoption of lessons in new peace initiatives, increased tech investment for security, and fulfilment of targeted interventions in SSR, DDR, maritime security, and climate-sensitive peacebuilding.

The year 2025 presented both progress and persistent challenges in continental security architecture. The Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA Unit) continued to serve as the technical intelligence arm of the African Union in safeguarding the continent's peace and stability through early-warning assessments, strategic intelligence coordination, and inter-agency support to Member States and regional mechanisms.

CISSA Unit strengthened coordination with national services and regional fusion centres.

The continent's financial intelligence landscape showed an upsurge in crypto-based laundering channels, illicit gold trade, and cash-intensive smuggling routes. Collaboration with INTERPOL, AFRIPOL, and the AU Mechanism on Illicit Financial Flows led to improved tracing of networks linking Sahel gold smuggling and East African counterfeit currency syndicates.

Human trafficking networks continued exploiting post-conflict zones and migration hubs. Intelligence exchange with IOM and AFRIPOL resulted in 23 coordinated interdictions, yet intra-continental trafficking for forced labour and organ trade persisted in the Great Lakes and East Africa.³⁸

The CISSA Unit provided intelligence support and early warning assessments for key presidential elections in Africa.

The CISSA Unit maintained strategic engagement with INTERPOL, AFRIPOL, ECCAS-FUSION, and SADC-CTC, focusing on:

- Joint operations targeting terrorist travel and fake documentation networks
- Integration of CISSA's analytical briefs into INTERPOL's Silver Notice system
- Support to the African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (AFRIPOL) in aligning regional data-sharing mechanisms.

Regular presence in global security platforms such as INTERPOL's 92nd General Assembly enhanced Africa's voice in global policing and counter-terrorism coordination.

3.5 MOONSHOT 5: AFRICA VALUES ARE EXPLICIT AND PROMOTED

This Moonshot envisions an Africa where rich cultural diversity, heritage, and indigenous knowledge systems serve as primary drivers of unity and socio-economic transformation. The strategic intent is to mainstream African values and pan-African consciousness across education, media, and governance while operationalising the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance. Central to this vision is the promotion of creative and cultural industries (CCIs) as engines of inclusive growth, alongside the robust protection of Africa's tangible and intangible heritage.

³⁸ African Union (AU). The Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA Unit), 2025.

Achieving the objectives of this Moonshot has entailed implementing actions that focused on:

- African identity & heritage: celebrating talent, arts, crafts, culture, music, and sports
- Cultural diversity, expression and languages
- African history and oral traditions

3.5.1 African Identity & Heritage: Celebrating Talent, Arts, Crafts, Culture, Music, and Sports

In terms of policy, heritage, and language trends, progress in the policy landscape is accelerating. As of 2025, 46 AU Member States have ratified the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance, an increase from 38 in 2019, supported by a new Continental Framework for Cultural Policy Harmonisation. Simultaneously, efforts to reclaim heritage have gained momentum; the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) 2024 Annual Report notes that 147 heritage sites across 35 countries are now inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Furthermore, restitution initiatives coordinated by the AU, UNESCO, and ECOWAS have successfully facilitated the return of significant artifacts to the Republic of Benin, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Regarding linguistic identity, the recognition of Kiswahili as an official AU working language marks a major milestone. While nations including the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Kenya, and the Republic of South Africa have integrated indigenous languages into curricula, the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) reports that only 25% of Member States currently possess national policies supporting indigenous languages.³⁹

Africa will safeguard its unique cultural heritage through the implementation of continental language policies and the AU Sports Development Policy (2023–2033). Progress should be measured by national adoption of creative economy plans and language policies, formal economic integration of creative sectors, heritage protection programmes, increased African Games revenue, and domestication of the sports policy.

During the reporting period, the AUC completed the Great Museum of Africa (GMA) Statute in accordance with the African Union's (AU) cultural frameworks. This notable achievement establishes the GMA as a pivotal institution for the continent, facilitating the effective implementation of this significant cultural office aimed at advancing Africa's heritage, creative industries, history, and identity.

The GMA impact includes:

- Preservation and promotion of African Heritage: The museum will showcase, protect, and promote Africa's rich cultural heritage, providing a platform for the continent's diverse cultures and histories
- Cultural exchange and education: It will foster cultural understanding, education, and exchange among Africans and international visitors
- Platform for African Artists through the provision of a platform to African Artists to showcase their work, promoting contemporary African Arts and creative voices
- Community engagement and promotion of the community's social cohesion and cultural preservation
- Promoting national and continental significance by providing space for dialogue on topics of national and continental significance and promoting unity and cultural awareness.

“

“The year's achievements include tangible advances recorded during the 47th Session of the World Heritage Committee, notably the inscription of new African sites on the World Heritage List.”

H.E. Dr. José Maria Pereira Neves
President of The Republic of Cabo Verde
AU Champion on Preservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage in Africa

³⁹ African Union (AU). Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies by Oral Tradition (CELHTO), 2025.



Inauguration of the Grand Egyptian Museum, 1 November 2025 in Cairo, Egypt

Concerning Sport, digital campaigns have been conducted, advocacy briefs developed, and webinars held, reaching out to about seven (7) million people, encouraging them to:

- Mainstream gender equality in and through sport, prevent gender-based violence, and encourage women and girls' leadership in sport and other fields
- Promote the inclusion of people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups participating in empowerment through sport
- Promote leveraging of sport as an accelerator for youth empowerment, social, and economic development, and develop policies and programmes that safeguard the welfare of athletes and all who participate in sport.

The African Union Sports Council's (AUSC) mandate is coordination of the African Sports Movement and being a forum for concerted action between Member States for the promotion and development of sports and development through sport in Africa. In this same vein, the African Union Sports Council (AUSC), in collaboration with the AUSC Region 4 Secretariat, facilitated the signing of the Host Agreement between the United Republic of Tanzania and AUSC Region 4, formalising the establishment of the AUSC Region 4 Secretariat in Dodoma.⁴⁰

Africa's vibrant cultural heritage – including arts, crafts, music, and sports – represents significant untapped economic potential. By implementing the AU Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries and establishing the African Regional Games, Member States can systematically develop these sectors to generate jobs, preserve cultural identity, and drive growth. Success should be measured by the creative industries' percentage contribution to continental GDP.

The sector holds significant economic potential. According to 2023–2024 data from UNESCO and the AfDB, Africa's CCIs contribute an estimated USD58 billion annually and employ over five million people. Leading markets such as the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of South Africa, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Ghana, the Republic of Senegal, and the Arab Republic of Egypt are driving exports in film, music, and fashion; notably, the Nigerian film industry

40 African Union (AU). The African Union Sports Council's (AUSC), 2025.

(Nollywood) alone is valued at over USD7 billion. However, the sector's full potential remains constrained by underinvestment, weak copyright protection mechanisms, and limited intra-African cultural trade.

THE CREATIVE ECONOMY: A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR ENGINE



2023-2024 UNESCO and AfDB data.

3.5.2 Cultural Diversity, Expression, and Languages

Strengthening respect for Africa's diverse cultures promotes equality and social harmony across the continent. Progress should be measured through three (3) key indicators: Member States implementing cultural diversity initiatives, improvements in the Regional Cultural Diversity Index, and national education curricula incorporating cultural diversity.

During its participation in the MONDIACULT 2025, the world's biggest cultural policy conference, the Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies (CELTHO) has ensured AUC's visibility through a stand dedicated to the Centre's publications and work. A total of 260 visitors were registered at the stand (50% from Africa, 30% local participants, and 20% from other regions). Discussions led to concrete avenues for cooperation: co-publishing, translations, digitisation, library deposits, and participation in future conferences. CELHTO's flagship publications on oral tradition, linguistics, and history generated significant interest, confirming the Centre's role as a leading scientific and heritage resource.⁴¹

Additionally, CELHTO conducted a study on the linguistic and intercultural challenges of the free movement of artists and their artworks in Central Africa. The study conducted an inventory and analysis of linguistic and intercultural challenges surrounding the movement of artists and their works in Central Africa and made recommendations to optimise the contribution of cultural and artistic products to the development of Africa in the context of the implementation of the AfCFTA.

In terms of preservation of African heritage, under the leadership of CELTHO, some 20 high-ranking officers from the defence and security forces from the six (6) administrative regions of the Togolese Republic were trained and made aware of the tools and provisions in force for the protection of heritage during armed conflicts. These senior officers have been equipped to preserve/protect cultural property against trafficking and vandalism under the Convention of UNESCO for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and its two (2) protocols.

For a very long time, the African continent has been remarkable in terms of its huge potential of linguistic heritage. Therefore, in the year 2025, ACALAN

41 African Union (AU). The Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies through Oral Tradition (CELTHO), 2025

implemented a project to empower African languages for the effective integration and development of Africa. One of the key achievements was the establishment of the Continental Youth Committee for the Empowerment of African Languages from 27–30 May 2025 in Addis Ababa. In addition to that, the promotion and adoption of Kiswahili as a working language of the African Union and a language of wider communication was also a big milestone towards advancing African languages within the continent and beyond.

3.5.3 African History and Oral Traditions

Safeguarding Africa's rich oral traditions requires establishing collaborative networks among writers, storytellers, and traditional leaders to systematically document this cultural heritage. Progress should be measured by tracking Member State participation in oral history preservation initiatives.

With the ambition to preserve African history, CELTHO as a production office aims to conduct research on the history of our continent and publish the results.

Therefore, these four (4) following books have been published⁴²:

- *Edem Kodjo: Les secrets d'une grandeur*, in tribute to H.E. Edem Kodjo, former Secretary General of the OAU from 1978 to 1983
- *L'irénologie africaine: Artéfacts usuels, pratiques didactiques et regards pluriels*
- *La polémologie africaine: Archéologie des conflits autour de la culture, de la mémoire et des représentations*
- *Les Cahiers du CELHTO 11*



Committee ACALAN group photo on the occasion of the establishment of the Continental Youth Committee

During its participation in the Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), CELHTO was received in audience by the Secretary General of the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES). The discussions focused mainly on CAMES' support for the indexing and recognition process of the CELHTO scientific journal as well as on the prospects for collaboration between the two (2) institutions, at a time when the AUC and CAMES have just signed, on 11 February, 2025, at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, a memorandum of understanding aimed at promoting education, research, and innovation on the African continent.

42 African Union (AU). The Centre for Linguistic and Historical Studies through Oral Tradition (CELTHO), 2025.

3.6 MOONSHOT 6: ENHANCE THE EMPOWERMENT OF AFRICAN CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE GROUPS

Moonshot 6 of the STYIP is designed to transform Africa's population into its most valuable asset by 2033. By integrating health, education, and social equity, the Moonshot aims to cultivate a skilled, healthy, and empowered citizenry. The strategy prioritises the Fourth Industrial Revolution, targeting universal primary education and ensuring that 40% of graduates specialise in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to drive innovation and research.

Parallel to educational reform, the Moonshot focuses on physical well-being by mandating that 15% of national budgets be allocated to health, with the goal of eliminating severe malnutrition and significantly reducing maternal and child mortality rates. Socially, it seeks to dismantle structural barriers through legal and economic reforms; this includes achieving 50% female representation in political and management roles and reducing youth unemployment to 14%. Collectively, these measures aim to eradicate harmful cultural practices and foster an inclusive environment where women and youth can fully participate in the continent's socio-economic growth.⁴³

In pursuit of the objectives of this Moonshot, strategic actions were undertaken that focused on:

- Education as a driver for empowerment and development
- Health as a driver for resilience and innovation
- African citizen empowerment and policy engagement (inclusive of vulnerable groups)



*H.E. Gaspard Banyankimbona,
Commissioner for Education,
Science, Technology, and
Innovation (ESTI)*

3.6.1 Education as a Driver for Empowerment and Development

The STYIP sets definitive quantitative targets for the decade, aiming to transform Africa's "youth bulge" into a demographic dividend through a revolution in skills and innovation. The overarching goal is a massive shift toward STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and a skills revolution that aligns with labour market demands. This strategy prioritises a complete overhaul of education systems, moving beyond the metric of access ("getting kids in school") to ensuring students graduate with proficiencies relevant to the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).⁴⁴

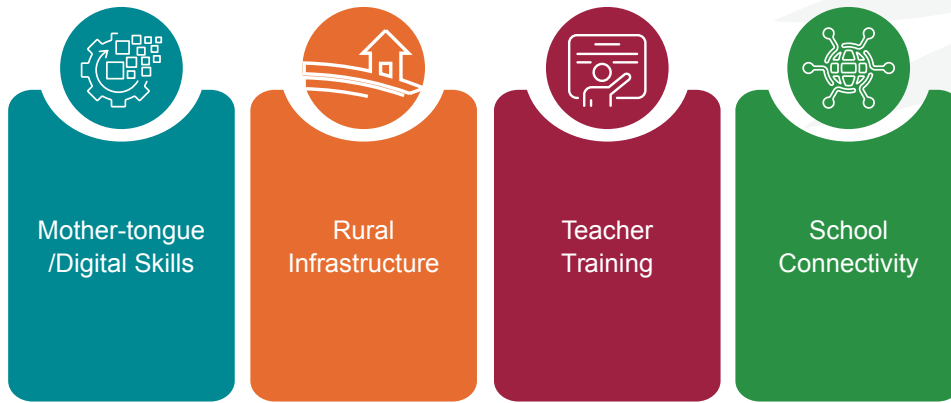
To achieve these benchmarks, the AU identifies four critical pillars for immediate intervention:

- Promoting mother-tongue instruction at early ages and integrating digital skills and entrepreneurship into standard curricula
- Expanding quality school infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, to bridge the urban-rural divide
- Launching comprehensive programmes to recruit, train, and retain teachers, with a specific mandate for digital literacy training, and
- Operationalising the Digital Transformation Strategy to ensure schools are connected to the internet and have equitable access to digital learning materials.

⁴³ African Union Commission (AUC). Office of Strategic Planning and Delivery (OSPD), 2025.

⁴⁴ African Union Commission (AUC). Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI), 2025.

FOUR EDUCATION PILLARS



Despite these clear ambitions, the 2024 Third Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 offers a sobering assessment. While progress against key education indicators is notable, overall performance has fallen short of expected targets. This deficit underscores an urgent imperative to accelerate investment in human capital to ensure the ambitious goals set for 2033 are attainable.

To address these gaps, inclusive quality education is being advanced through updated continental frameworks, including the Continental Education Strategy (CESA 26–35), a new Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) strategy, and the AU Decade of Education. These initiatives prioritise demand-driven skills, digital learning, and green-economy competencies.⁴⁵

Beyond curriculum, the governance of human capital is being strengthened. Citizen policy engagement is being enhanced through organs like ECOSOCC and specialised migration centres that connect data, citizen voices, and policy specifically regarding migration governance and rights protection. Concurrently, delivery capacity for Agenda 2063 is being consolidated through new STYIP domestication guidelines, monitoring frameworks, and a centralised digital platform providing dashboards for all AU countries. These tools enable evidence-based planning and accountability, building a people-driven Africa where citizens are better equipped, represented, and protected.

Progress in these areas will be measured by tracking specific indicators, with gender and youth inclusivity integrated throughout and adoption of inclusive education policies and increased national education budgets.



Mr Louis Cheick Sissoko,
Presiding Officer of
ECOSOCC

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“Social justice requires addressing the multiple forms of violence that women face... It requires ensuring access to quality education, healthcare, and other essential services, and women’s meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels of society.”

H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf
Chairperson of the AUC,
Pan African Women’s Day Statement

45 African Union Commission (AUC). Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI), 2025.

3.6.2 Health as a Driver for Resilience and Innovation

Affordable and quality healthcare constitutes a critical pillar of Moonshot 6, essential for empowering African citizens. To this end, the primary imperative is the rigorous implementation of the African Health Strategy to advance Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This strategic focus encompasses strengthening mental health services, enhancing social well-being programmes, and ensuring access to safe, quality medical products. Progress is measured by increasing Member State adoption of drug prevention trainings, expanded UHC, improved well-being care, medical product quality assurance, and allocating at least 15% of national budgets to health.



Launch of LC16m8 vaccination in Kinshasa, DRC, August 2025

In 2025, through strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships involving key global and regional health organisations, such as DNDi, The END Fund, WHO, GAVI, and Uniting to Combat Neglected Diseases, the AUC made significant strides in aligning Africa's health strategy and Agenda 2063. South-South cooperation was also enhanced through strategic partnerships between African and Caribbean regions, promoting innovative, context-specific health solutions and fostering unified advocacy for Universal Health Coverage (UHC).⁴⁶



"To close funding gaps in African health systems, countries must contribute more domestic resources and engage the continent's philanthropies and private sector. While Africa's health cannot be outsourced, increased investment from the continent can have a multiplier effect on financing from external partners and improve health outcomes."

H.E. Paul Kagame
President of The Republic of Rwanda
AU Champion On Domestic Health Financing

A historic milestone was achieved with the first-ever Childcare Ministerial Conference in Africa. African ministers committed to supportive policies fostering investment in accessible, affordable, and quality childcare services that prioritise marginalised groups, including children with disabilities and those living in fragile or humanitarian contexts. Nutrition efforts intensified during the Africa Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit, mobilising nearly USD28 billion globally with over 400

⁴⁶ African Union (AU). Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS), 2025.

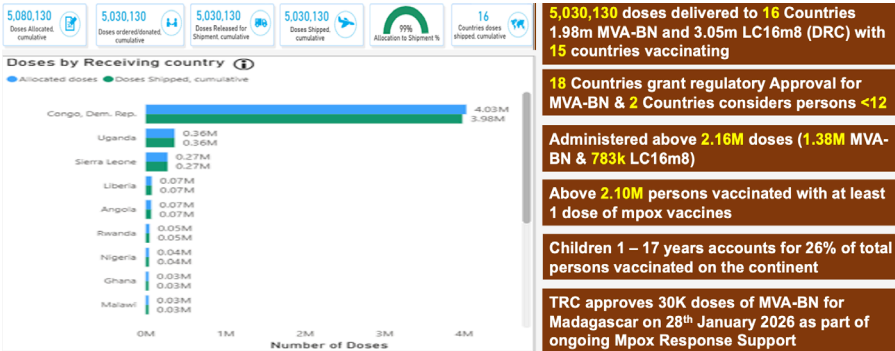
nutrition commitments recorded on the Nutrition Accountability Framework. The AU Strategic Framework for Anaemia Prevention and Management was launched to combat the estimated 116.7 million new annual anaemia cases among African women and girls, with 18 AU Member States developing costing national plans.⁴⁷

A key success story is the transformative Triple Elimination Initiative, integrating testing, diagnosis, and treatment of HIV, hepatitis B, and syphilis. This cost-effective approach aims to eliminate vertical transmission of these diseases by 2030. This innovative, cost-effective approach significantly reduces the burden on health systems and improves maternal and child health outcomes continent-wide.

“Global institutions should prioritise nutrition and food security in the International Development Association (IDA21) replenishment.”

H.M. King Letsie III
The Kingdom of Lesotho
AU Champion on Nutrition

VACCINE DELIVERY AND IMPLEMENTATION STATUS



Africa CDC

Despite these successes, the sector faces persistent headwinds. Key challenges include insufficient nutrition funding in low-income states, fragmented childcare systems, and limited digital infrastructure, which impedes the scaling of digital health strategies. Additionally, gaps remain in the consistent implementation and evaluation of AU policies.

Operational experience has emphasised the critical need for cross-sector collaboration integrating childcare, health, and food systems, reinforced country ownership through aligned technical support and investments, enhanced engagement with Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for regulatory harmonisation, and improved implementation accountability mechanisms.

Priority actions for 2026 include launching the Continental Childcare Policy Dashboard to support the integration of early childhood development into national planning; scaling the Digital Health Tracker and building capacity for ethical health data governance; fostering dialogue between health and finance ministries for better resource alignment; and convening a multisectoral Nutrition Conference to evaluate progress and plan for the next decade.

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“...The African Union can secure resilient health systems in line with the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty (AHSS) Agenda and Agenda 2063.”

H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu
President of The Federal Republic of Nigeria
AU Champion on Human Resources for Health and Community Health Delivery Partnership

47 African Union (AU). Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS), 2025.

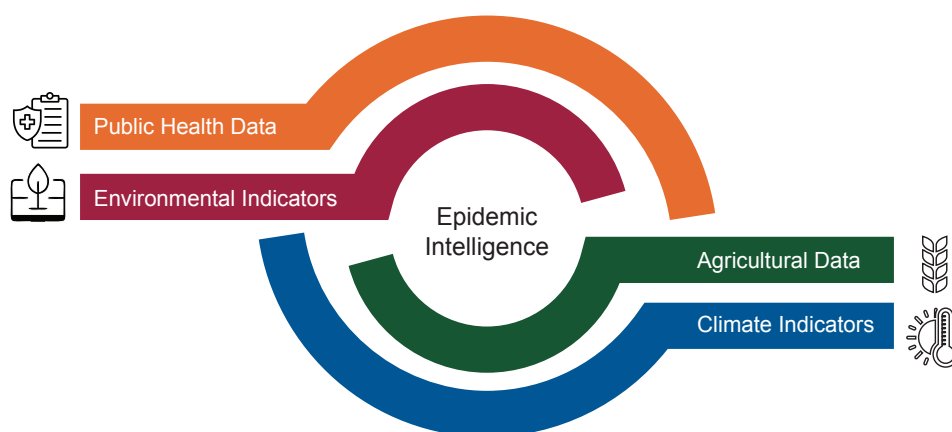


Dr Jean Kaseya, Director General, Africa CDC

Complementing the focus on Universal Health Coverage, 2025 marked a decisive shift toward strengthening health security and climate emergency preparedness. Moving beyond core healthcare provision, Member States concentrated on capacity-building workforce development, and modern surveillance systems to advance health and climate emergency preparedness. Key achievements included the scaling-up of leadership and technical training across the continent, particularly through new biomanufacturing networks and platforms for hands-on learning in vaccine production and public health laboratory skills. Member States also benefitted from Africa CDC's Framework for Workforce Development, which emphasises field epidemiology, laboratory leadership, and public health informatics to foster expertise needed for the rapid detection of and response to emergent threats.

A major evolution in 2025 was the harmonisation of bio surveillance networks that strengthened cross-sectoral preparedness efforts and promoted collaborative surveillance by combining public health data with environmental, agricultural, and climate indicators. Through major collaborative initiatives, including partnerships with WHO and technical partners, national capacities were further developed in bio risk management, event-based and genomic surveillance, and epidemic intelligence. These initiatives prioritised resilience, ensuring systems are robust enough to withstand the dual pressures of climate-sensitive disease outbreaks and biological threats.⁴⁸

HARMONIZED SURVEILLANCE FOR EMERGING THREATS



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“In 2025, Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) adopted the Pandemic Agreement at the World Health Assembly, establishing a renewed multilateral framework to strengthen prevention, preparedness and response with equity and solidarity at its core.”

H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa
President of The Republic of South Africa
AU Champion on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response

To solidify this progress, institutional capacity was reinforced through targeted support for national public health institutes (NPHIs). Interventions focused on establishing legal frameworks, operational standards, and peer-support systems to bolster overall health security architecture. Regional networks were established to connect training institutions, manufacturers, and regulatory agencies to streamline readiness for both current and future climate-linked emergencies. Furthermore, education and public awareness campaigns successfully engaged youth and vulnerable communities as digital health champions, fostering grassroots resilience and innovative local solutions.

Despite these advances, critical gaps persist, particularly regarding resources for research and development, regulatory affairs, and the seamless technical integration of health with agriculture and climate surveillance. The strategic path forward requires scaling up structured workforce development, fully operationalising regional capability networks, and increasing the integration of

48 African Union (AU). Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), 2025.

climate and health data. Member States are encouraged to prioritise harmonised roadmaps and sustainable partnerships to ensure that all citizens, especially youth and women, are equipped to respond to the converging threats of emerging health emergencies and climate change.

Finally, the African Medicines Agency (AMA) recently established as a Specialized Agency of the AU and headquartered in Kigali, Rwanda, is designed to be one of the key continental instruments that makes it possible to achieve the health targets under Moonshot 6, especially those on primary healthcare coverage, mortality reduction, epidemic control, and the elimination of substandard products in Africa. With the successful appointment of Dr Delese Mimi Darko as the inaugural Director General of AMA, the agency is poised to be a crucial continental regulator that makes it feasible for Member States to reach the STYIP's health targets at scale and with equity, by harmonising and strengthening regulatory systems; speeding up access to quality-assured, safe, and effective medicines, vaccines, and related products; and protecting populations from substandard and falsified products that undermine health outcomes.⁴⁹

"Cholera in Africa is no longer merely a health emergency but a development, climate, and equity challenge. Between January 2022 and December 2025, Africa recorded over 320,000 suspected and confirmed cholera cases and more than 6,800 deaths across 26 Member States, marking a resurgence not seen in over a decade."

H.E. Hakainde Hichilema
President of The Republic
of Zambia AU Champion on
Eliminating Cholera

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3.6.3 African Citizen Empowerment and Policy Engagement (Inclusive of Vulnerable Groups)

Central to the continent's developmental trajectory is the status of its youth (aged 15–35), who currently constitute approximately 65% of the population. This demographic reality presents both a potential dividend and a formidable challenge. Despite the potential for growth, a profound structural disconnect persists between population expansion and economic capacity. Data from the African Development Bank's African Economic Outlook 2024 indicates that while the continent adds 12 million youth to the labour force annually, only three (3) million formal jobs are created in response.



Inaugural Egumeni Dialogue on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

This structural imbalance has resulted in a labour landscape dominated by underemployment and informal activity. While the average continental youth unemployment rate hovers around 12%, this figure conceals severe regional disparities; for instance, South Africa's youth unemployment reached 46.1% in early 2025. Furthermore, the crisis is characterised by distinct inequalities: young women are disproportionately affected, and a growing number of youth have become discouraged job seekers, exiting the labour market entirely due to a lack of opportunities and experience.

49 African Union (AU). Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), 2025.

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“Socio-economic pressures further intensify vulnerabilities. Millions of young Africans face constrained opportunities for employment, education and social mobility, providing fertile ground for extremist recruitment.”

H.E. Abdelmadjid Tebboune
President of The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
AU Champion for Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism

To bridge this critical gap, the African Union is scaling up interventions such as the 1 Million Next Level Initiative and the Youth Connekt Africa programme. These frameworks are designed to bypass traditional employment bottlenecks by expanding entrepreneurship, innovation, and digital skills opportunities for millions of young Africans.

INAUGURAL EGUMENI DIALOGUE ON GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (29-30 SEPTEMBER 2025)



Egumeni Social Media Engagement and Reach

Concurrently, the continent is witnessing a distinctive divergence between political representation and economic equity regarding gender. On the political front, steady gains are evident; as of 2024, women hold 25.6% of parliamentary seats across Africa, an increase from 22.5% in 2015. This figure closely tracks the global average of 26.5% (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2024) and reflects progress anchored by the AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE, 2018–2028).⁵⁰

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“The year 2025 coincides with major milestones, including the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, the 25th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and Africa's enhanced engagement through South Africa's G20 Presidency.”

H.E. John Dramani Mahama
President of The Republic of Ghana
AU Champion on Gender and Development Issues in Africa

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“African Union Head of States adopted in February 2025 the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG).”

H. E. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo
President of The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
AU Champion on Positive Masculinity

However, economic parity lags significantly behind these political successes. Entrenched structural barriers remain prevalent, most notably persistent gender wage gaps, limited access to financial capital for female entrepreneurs, and the disproportionate burden of unpaid care work. Collectively, these impediments continue to stifle the full economic potential and participation of African women.

50 African Union Commission (AUC). Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD), 2025.

3.7 MOONSHOT 7: AFRICA IS A STRONG AND AN INFLUENTIAL GLOBAL PLAYER



African Union at the UNGA80

Moonshot 7 as articulated in the STYIP aims to ensure that by 2033 Africa is an equal and influential actor in global affairs and is largely financing its own development through stronger diplomacy, common positions, and robust domestic resource mobilisation. In this regard, it seeks to consolidate Africa's voice, agency, and leadership in global affairs. It envisions a continent that acts collectively, speaks with one voice, and participates as an equal partner in global governance, trade, climate, and multilateral systems. The Moonshot aligns with the AU's institutional reforms, the AfCFTA, and Africa's strategic engagement within the UN, G20, BRICS, and other multilateral platforms.

To achieve this Moonshot, action in the following areas have been taken - Strengthening Africa's Global Positioning and Participation in G20 Activities.

3.7.1 Strengthening Africa's Global Positioning

Under the leadership of the Chairperson, H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, the AUC committed itself to enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of AU diplomacy through high-level engagements, promoting African Common Positions, engaging with UN leadership and assessing implementation outcomes of key partnerships as well as strengthening AU funding.

A number of high-level engagements that facilitated the adoption of outcome documents, strengthened strategic partnerships, and aligned collaborative efforts with the priorities of Agenda 2063 were conducted. These included:⁵¹

- The 3rd AU–EU Partnership Ministerial Meeting held on 21 May 2025 in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting adopted a Ministerial Communiqué, which reaffirmed the AU–EU strategic partnership and outlined joint commitments towards peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. The meeting also addressed the implementation of the pledge made during the last AU–EU Summit held in 2022, concerning the initiative of the Africa–Europe Investment Package (Global Gateway) of €150 billion to support investment on the continent.

⁵¹ African Union Commission (AUC). Partnerships Management and Resource Mobilisation (PMRM), 2025.

- The 7th African Union–European Union (AU–EU) Summit held on 24 and 25 November 2025 in Luanda, Angola. The Summit was of particular significance as it coincided with the 25th Anniversary of the AU–EU partnership, which was formally launched at the first Summit held in Cairo in 2000. The Summit was successfully organised with the attendance of Heads of State and Government from Africa and Europe, the adoption of the Luanda Declaration, and the commitment from both sides to strengthen their partnership to respond to global uncertainties and shape a strategic future agenda. Over the past quarter century, this partnership has evolved into a strategic framework for dialogue and cooperation across a wide range of political, economic, social, and security issues, making it one of the most comprehensive intercontinental partnerships in the world.
- The 9th Ministerial Coordinators Meeting of the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held on 11 June 2025, in Changsha, China. The meeting culminated in the adoption of a Communiqué, which underscored the ongoing progress in implementing the 2024 FOCAC Beijing Declaration. African countries also engaged with China to extend the zero-tariff scheme on all exports to China to include all African nations maintaining diplomatic relations with China. Additionally, the Commission delegation attended the China–Africa Trade and Economic Expo at the same venue from 13–14 June 2025. The delegation engaged in multiple thematic sessions, interacting with Chinese private sector representatives, business leaders, and decision-makers to share insights and discuss strategies for enhancing trade and economic cooperation between Africa and China.
- The 9th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) held from 20– 22 August 2025, in Yokohama, Japan, under the theme: “Co-Create Innovative Solutions with Africa.” The Summit was successfully organised and adopted the TICAD 9 Yokohama Declaration as a key outcome document. With over 200 thematic events, the Summit focused on and addressed key challenges such as migration, peace and stability, trade, health, climate change, and access to affordable financing, among others faced by Africa. The Meeting proposed the co-creation of innovative sustainable solutions to address these challenges and drive sustainable development.
- The AU-CARICOM Summit in Addis Ababa in September 2025.

Through the PRC Sub-Committee on Multilateral Cooperation, AU continued to realise African Common Positions to guide these high-level engagements and partnerships with international partners.



Engagements with the United Nations

H.E. AUC Chairperson engaged with the UN leadership to discuss progress made on the AU–UN Frameworks on enhanced partnership in peace and security, focusing on preventive diplomacy, mediation, peace operations and sustainable development. They also agreed to deepen strategic dialogue to further align efforts at the highest levels of the AU and the UN.



H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the AUC, and H.E. António Guterres, UN Secretary General, at the Annual AU–UN Conference on 12 November 2025

The Engagements included:

1. A meeting with the UN USG and Executive Director of UNOPS, to explore avenues for deepening the AU–UNOPS strategic cooperation in support of peace and security, governance, health systems strengthening, sustainable infrastructure, and development aimed at advancing both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.
2. A meeting with the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region to exchange mediation efforts in Eastern DRC and the broader region. They underscored the importance of ensuring regional and international peace-making initiatives are coordinated and coherent and reaffirmed their shared commitment to a robust AU–UN partnership.
3. A meeting with the UN SG for Sudan and discussions about the situation in Sudan. They both emphasised the urgent need for an inclusive, Sudanese-led political process, civilian governance and stronger AU–UN–IGAD and Arab League cooperation to restore lasting peace to Sudan.
4. The Chairperson received the UN SG for West Africa and the Sahel and discussed the evolving political and security landscape. They exchanged on the Sahel crisis and reaffirmed the AU–UN cooperation to advance peace, stability and democracy across the West Africa and Sahel region.
5. The Chairperson received the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. They exchanged views on the regional displacement context and reaffirmed the imperative for coherent and coordinated regional and international responses. They both underscored the importance of development-driven, sustainable approaches that empower displaced populations and promote self-reliance, while calling on international partners and governments to enhance their support.
6. The Chairperson received the UN Deputy SG to discuss the overall situation in Africa and challenges on the multilateralism front. They both agreed that the AU–UN will continue to work closely together and initiate preparations for the AU–UN Annual Conference that will take place later in the year.

A Stronger Role and Action in the World

In order to give a new impetus to the AU presence in the world and to reinforce its effective role in zones of conflicts on the continent, H.E. AUC Chairperson proceeded with the almost complete reshuffle of AU Permanent Observers and Representatives in major international capitals as well as the High Representatives, Special Representatives, and the Special Envoys.

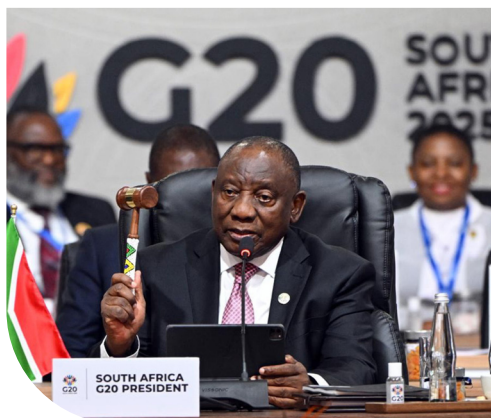
Resource Mobilisation and Financing Initiatives

The AUC focused on ensuring efficient use of existing resources while achieving positive results and diversifying funding sources. The finalisation and validation of the AU Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM) Strategy 2024–2033 was among the key remarkable outcomes during this period, among others outlined below:

- Enhanced effective collaboration, in the preparation of the 2026 Budget of the Union fostering synergy, coordination, complementarity, and harmonisation while avoiding duplication of programmes.
- Validation of the AU DRM Strategy at a workshop held from 23–27 June 2025 with participation from Member States, African DRM Experts, RECs, and other stakeholders. The Strategy represents a bold, African-led vision to mobilise internal resources, enhance financial sovereignty, and establish a sustainable model for development finance on the continent.
- Held an information session with the EU on the theme EU–Africa: Global Gateway Investment Package for Africa on 3 March 2025. The event highlighted EU investments across key sectors and announced a new EUR20 million capacity-building agreement to complement ongoing EU support to the AU.
- Convened a meeting between the AU, Member States and Joint Framework Arrangement (JFA) partners on 9 October 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting successfully reviewed the framework’s achievements and proposed solutions, focusing on improving partnerships and collaborations, as well as enhancing budget consultation processes for future initiatives, towards more effective implementation of the JFA moving forward. JFA partners reaffirmed their commitments to the partnership.
- Held two (2) Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group Meetings under the Africa–Türkiye Partnership to review its 2022–2026 Action Plan in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and Ankara, Türkiye. During the meeting in Türkiye, the Commission departments had the opportunity to meet with counterparts from Türkiye’s institutions. The platform facilitated the identification of areas for future partnerships and built relationships for effective collaboration. The Turkish government also reaffirmed its commitment to continuing to support and promote these partnerships.
- Held negotiations on development cooperation between the AU and the Federal Republic of Germany on 6–7 November 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. These dialogues assessed the progress of projects funded by Germany and future funding commitments.



3.7.2 Participation in G20 Activities



H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa and G20 President at the G20 Leaders Summit (2025)



G20 Leaders' Summit 20–22 November 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa

In its capacity as permanent member of the G20, the African Union participated in its second year within this group. The first year was under Brazil's G20 year. In 2025, the AU joined efforts with South Africa's G20 presidency to advance continental priorities.

This participation was based on the priorities and modalities set out in Assembly Decision 873 and Executive Council Decision 1255.

Internally, coordination was strengthened through the task force chaired by the AU Sherpa with the support of the Office of the Director General and the Coordination Unit.

These meetings enabled a closed monitoring of AU participation in the different sectoral and thematic working groups as well the related reports. This work enabled the preparation of the different statements during the Sherpa Meetings as well as to the meetings of the ministers of foreign affairs and the Leaders' Summit.

Regular consultations were held with Member States through the Sub-Committee on Economic and Trade Matters.



H.E. Amb. Tête António, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola. G20 Ministers of Foreign Affairs Meeting, United Nations General Assembly, New York, September 2025.

This led to a successful outcome of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg in which H.E. João Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, and H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, Chairperson of the AUC, participated actively.



H.E. Commissioner Francisca Tatchouop Belobe, AU G20 Sherpa, and H.E. Ambassador Sara Silva, AU G20 Sous-Sherpa

3.8 OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY, AND FOCUS ON PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT

In order to achieve the goals and targets as set out by Agenda 2063, its Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan, as guided by Member States and as implemented by the AUC and the different organs and specialised agencies, the newly elected team of the AUC engaged proactively in enhancing administrative and financial efficiency and modernisation as well as significantly shifting the focus on performance and impact.

3.8.1 Administrative and Financial Efficiency & Modernisation

'Building a Resilient, Efficient, and Digitally Driven Institution'

The year 2025 has been a period of foundational transformation and strategic oversight for the newly elected Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Her Excellency Ambassador Selma Malika Haddadi. Amb. Selma has embarked on an ambitious journey to strengthen our human resources management practices, enhance and reinforce transparency, accountability, operational effectiveness and digital transformation within the AU-wide system.



H.E. Chairperson during AU Townhall Meeting



H.E. Selma Malika Haddadi, Deputy Chairperson of the AUC



This report details the significant work and vision undertaken across key Directorates under the Deputy Chairperson, driven by a commitment to financial discipline, robust governance and modernisation. Despite persistent challenges such as budgetary constraints and staffing shortages, the institution has made substantial progress in strengthening its financial systems, advancing its digital transformation agenda, ensuring the security of its personnel and assets, and improving service delivery across the Union and to Member States.

Acknowledging the importance of staff for the organisation, the Deputy Chairperson spearheaded the adoption of a historical decision by the Executive Council of the Skills Audit and Competency Assessment (SACA) in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, allowing the improvement of employment conditions and contributing to boosting staff morale. Subsequently, in line with the Executive Council Decision, the communication of the placement of 578 staff, as concluded by the Promotion and Mobility Committee in 2023, was instrumental in creating a positive atmosphere among staff.

Furthermore, the Deputy Chairperson's mandate is central to steering the African Union's strategic shift towards enhanced fiscal discipline and operational efficiency. Concurrently, this mandate is critically linked to advancing the Union priority projects and programs under the overall Agenda 2063 and Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan.

The Deputy Chairperson approach also focused on the implementation of decisive measures to rationalise expenditures, particularly through streamlining missions and travel, with expectations that any generated savings be redirected to high-impact, programmatic priorities. Furthermore, driving institutional reforms to address long-standing challenges of low budget absorption, delayed project implementation, and non-unified/integrated management systems (SAP/AMERT) have been at the core of the Deputy Chairperson imperatives. The need for rigorous quarterly performance reviews, and strengthened accountability mechanisms to ensure financial resources translate into tangible results have never been more critical. In so doing, the following sections provide a comprehensive overview of the collective efforts to build a more resilient and capable institution, fully aligned with the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

Staffing and Retention

2025 was defined by the continued implementation of foundational reforms, primarily the revised Staff Regulations and Rules (SRR 2023) and the Skills Audit and Competency Assessment (SACA), notably following the Executive Council Decision adopted in July 2025 in Malabo through the leadership of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission; who played a vital role in the adoption of Decision EX.CL/Dec.1321(XLVII) in Malabo. Through this decision, the Executive Council provided the Commission with further guidance on the implementation of the Skills Audit and Competency Assessment (SACA) outcomes. This decision has represented a decisive step toward the operationalisation of the new organisational structure of the AUC, providing clear direction on staff placements, brought to an end more than five years of uncertainty and instability among staff regarding their professional futures as well as initiating the partial filling of the new structure for the positions of P4 and below. In this respect, the Directorate of Human Resources Management (HRMD) also contributed actively to the work of the Ad hoc Task Force established by the Chairperson of the Commission on the implementation of SACA.

Furthermore, the Directorate of HRM, as the Secretariat of the PRC Subcommittee on Structural reforms throughout the year, has been conducting the progressive review of the structures of 37 AU remaining entities in line with the finalisation plan of Institutional Reforms process.

Human Capital Optimisation

Operationally, HRMD demonstrated immense scale in workforce administration, processing a huge volume of staff contracts, renewals, and separations between January and October 2025. Concurrently, a major push in Learning & Development (L&D) saw over 1,000 staff benefit from training, while the AU Learn platform was upgraded to enhance user experience.

Organisational Capital

The HRMD's dedicated efforts to foster a more inclusive organisational culture. While gender parity (36% female, 64% male) and youth representation (22%) remained below AU targets, the directorate intensified outreach through platforms like LinkedIn. Employee well-being was supported through stress management workshops and efficient leave administration. A notable focus was placed on internal communications, with initiatives ranging from celebrating national days, issuing monthly newsletters and launching awareness campaigns, all aimed at building a shared institutional identity.

The AU Staff Pension Fund, managed by HRMD, successfully transitioned to internal management, generating approximately USD11.8 million in returns and projecting cash reserves of USD133 million by year's end.

The Directorate of Human Resources Management (HRMD) faced several key challenges, including the pervasive shortage of staff in the recruitment unit, the financial constraints that delayed digital product development and training delivery; technical difficulties with the integration of SAP and the AU Learn platform; compliance gaps in performance management; inclusivity shortfalls in gender and youth representation falling below AU targets; and the ongoing need for proactive coordination to meet audit compliance demands. In response, the recommended solutions outlined for 2026 focus on consolidating reforms through enhanced staff engagement, launching a modernised performance management framework, expanding AU Learn offerings and establishing an AU-wide HR Community of Practice, implementing strategic outreach and succession planning to improve inclusivity, strengthening workforce analytics and HR dashboards, and operationalizing structured feedback tools and communication loops to foster a more cohesive and responsive HR governance structure.

Technology (Digitalisation) Optimisation

In 2025, the Management Information Systems Directorate (MISD) served as the central engine for the African Union Commission's digital evolution, achieving significant milestones in infrastructure modernisation and cybersecurity. The Directorate successfully executed a large-scale migration of critical business applications, over 2,900 user accounts, and a vast ecosystem of collaboration teams and sites to secure cloud and data centre environments. This foundational effort, complemented by the deployment of hundreds of new laptops and enhanced network reliability, created a more resilient, high-performing, and collaborative digital workplace for the Commission. Concurrently, MISD fortified the institution's cyber defences through established Cyber-governance policies, the implementation of advanced threat protection tools, and the initiation of an ISO 27001-aligned risk assessment, collectively strengthening the AU's overall security posture and data protection capabilities.

The Directorate's work extended beyond infrastructure to directly enhance service delivery and institutional efficiency through targeted digital solutions. A key achievement was the deployment of the Enterprise Service Management System (ESMS), which digitises and streamlines IT service requests, and the development of a new Accreditation System that automates and secures logistics for high-level AU events. Furthermore, MISD laid the critical groundwork for a monumental ERP transformation, defining a clear 5-year roadmap and building capacity through training for over 350 stakeholders. These initiatives are not standalone technological upgrades but are strategically aligned with Agenda 2063, directly contributing to building a world-class digital infrastructure and advancing the moonshot targets of institutional resilience and secure digital governance.

Collectively, the accomplishments of the MISD have been instrumental in positioning our organisation as a trusted, digitally-enabled, and resilient institution. The digital transformation as impulse by H.E. DCP is pivotal for the entire Union, as it strengthens interoperability between AU organs and lays a dependable foundation for the secure deployment of continent-wide projects. The Directorate's work aims not only to elevate institutional performance but also cements technology as a core driver for better delivery, enabling the Commission to effectively lead Africa's transformation as envisioned in Agenda 2063.

Operational Efficiency

The Operations Support Services Directorate (OSSD) demonstrated significant progress in advancing its mandate of providing critical infrastructure and modernized support services across the African Union. The Directorate delivered on key infrastructure projects, including notable progress in the renovation of the AU Old New York Office and the HVAC upgrade for the Old Conference Centre, as well as achieved major milestones in operational reform, such as the reconfiguration of the E-Procurement platform and the deployment of a system administrator. This progress reflects a concerted effort to align the Directorate's outputs with the AU's modernisation agenda, fundamental to creating a modern, secure, and functional working environment for the Commission and its various organs.

Despite these achievements, OSSD navigated challenges including procurement delays, budgetary constraints, and chronic understaffing. Mitigation measures such as standardising operating templates and initiating vendor pre-qualification were instituted to address some of these bottlenecks. The Directorate's work remains indispensable to the entire Union, as it directly underpins the operational integrity and efficiency of the Commission, from maintaining union-wide secure premises to ensuring the prudent management of assets and seamless procurement services. The continued strategic guidance and support from the Cabinet of the Deputy Chairperson, particularly in expediting approvals, has been vital to consolidate some of these gains. Sustaining this positive trajectory is essential for the Directorate to fully realise its role in powering the Commission's day-to-day functions and advancing the broader strategic objectives of Agenda 2063.

Financial Resources Optimisation

In 2025, the Department of Finance made significant strides in institutionalising financial reforms, centred on enhancing accountability, transparency, and performance across the African Union. Furthermore, the department maintained a high standard of financial governance, as evidenced by receiving an unqualified

audit opinion on the 2024 Financial Statements. These efforts underscore a commitment to robust financial oversight and disciplined budgetary processes.

These efforts saw a reduction in audit findings from 134 in 2023 to approximately 50 in 2024 and resolved 57% of long-standing Board of External Auditors (BoEA) findings. The Board of External Auditors (BoEA) successfully conducted the statutory external audit for 2024, with the report signed on 29 May 2025. A key achievement was the presentation of the 2023 and 2024 audit reports to the Policy Organ, which led to an Executive Council decision to publish the Audited Financial Statements, enhancing institutional transparency.

For 2026, the Directorate of Finance is focusing on enhancing accountability and operational efficiency through several key areas. These include establishing a structured mechanism to track and implement Policy Organs' Decisions, conducting targeted training on multi-year budgeting and the AMERT tool, and enhancing financial monitoring tools for earlier detection of misalignments. Furthermore, the department is prioritising the finalisation and widespread dissemination of updated financial manuals and policies, complemented by a comprehensive capacity-building program; and also plans to implement regular and scheduled oversight field visits to offices to enhance the use of digital tools to ensure consistent financial practices.

In a landmark initiative to strengthen governance and financial integrity, the Deputy Chairperson convened an engagement meeting with the AU Board of External Auditors (BoEAs) on 8 November 2025. This first-of-its-kind leadership outreach, framed by the principles of International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 260, aimed to foster a collaborative and trusting relationship. The Deputy Chairperson reaffirmed the new AUC leadership's commitment to robust internal controls, transparency, and the full implementation of audit recommendations.

The initiative of the Deputy Chairperson was welcomed by the BoEAs who commended the initiatives as a foundation for improving the AU's accountability and audit profile.

Revenue Streamlining

Through the F15 Secretariat and Contributions Unit that provided critical secretariat support, the AUC welcomed the F15 Experts Committee's participation in key budget activities, including retreats in April and May 2025. Collection of Member States assessed statutory contributions has improved over this reporting period, increasing from an average of 68% prior to 2018, peaking at 90% in 2020 and stabilising at 88% over the period between 2021 to 2024. As of December 2025, the collection rate has reached 84% of the 2025 assessed contribution to the regular budget. This significant improvement in the collection of assessed contributions is attributed to the strengthened sanctions regime on non-payment of assessed contributions and improved follow-up strategies adopted by the Commission, including issuing regular reminders and agreeing on payment plans with countries facing challenges in paying their assessed contributions. Additionally, the Unit intensified follow-up on Member States' contributions and supported countries in arrears, and a payment plan that enabled countries to clear their arrears. Technical work has been progressing on formulating the new scale of assessment for 2027-2029.

On investment performance, the Commission maintains a conservative, rule-based investment strategy focused on capital preservation and liquidity. This approach

generated USD7.74 million in returns for 2025, compared to USD6.92 million in 2024. The portfolio remains 100% allocated to fixed-term deposits, primarily with African-based commercial banks vetted for liquidity, creditworthiness and compliance with AU-mandated selection criteria.

Physical and Mental Well-being

The Commission recognises that its most valuable asset is its people. The realisation of the ambitious Agenda 2063, “The Africa We Want,” is fundamentally dependent on a productive, healthy, and secure workforce. The Medical and Health Services Directorate (MHSD) serves as the primary guardian of physical health, and its mission is to support the health of AU staff and AU Member States for the realisation of AUC goals are operationalised through the delivery of curative, preventive, and rehabilitative services. Simultaneously the Office of Safety and Security (OSSS) provides the critical foundation of safety and security, a prerequisite for mental peace and stable operations. By ensuring a secure working environment and managing risks, OSSS mitigates significant stressors, allowing staff to focus on their duties. Together, these directorates address the complete spectrum of wellbeing, from treating illness and promoting wellness to preventing physical threats and ensuring psychological safety.

The MHSD demonstrated its vital role through high service demand, recording 15,642 client visits. This investment in human capital was characterised by comprehensive care, including 9,527 outpatient visits, significant use of specialised units like Physiotherapy and Dental, and 1,888 radiological procedures. The pharmacy maintained a reliable supply chain, and a 100% vaccination coverage rate for 484 individuals underscored a strong commitment to prevention. Beyond general health, the directorate made significant strides in addressing mental health, recording 959 dedicated visits and proactively championing the 2025 African Union Healthy Lifestyle Day to destigmatise mental illness. Parallel to these efforts, a major infrastructure upgrade was underway, including the procurement and installation of an MRI machine and other essential equipment, alongside specialised staff training to enhance service quality and range.

The Office of Safety and Security, in its distinct domain, made equally substantial contributions to fostering a secure and productive environment. Its primary achievements included providing comprehensive security for 87 high-level events, safeguarding over 23,000 participants, and conducting systematic Safety and Security Risk Assessments for the AU Headquarters and 14 regional offices. The deployment of an in-house Incident Management System portal to regional offices standardised real-time response, enhancing operational efficiency and staff peace of mind. Furthermore, OSSS extended its protective oversight to future infrastructure by conducting threat analyses for major projects like the new African Court. However, the office faced challenges such as staffing shortages and procurement delays for essential equipment, which created security gaps and highlighted systemic bottlenecks.

Despite facing similar systemic challenges in procurement and logistics, the work of the MHSD and OSSS revealed powerful synergies in promoting overall staff wellbeing. Looking ahead, both directorates have outlined strategic paths to build on their 2025 successes. The MHSD will focus on operationalising new units and equipment, while OSSS plans to establish dedicated task forces to resolve IT and procurement issues and is even exploring an AI-driven threat analysis application.

Conferencing & Publications Management

Throughout the year 2025, the Directorate of Conference Management and Publications (DCMP) demonstrated remarkable resilience and a commitment to operational excellence despite functioning with a critically low staff complement.

The Directorate successfully delivered high-quality conference services, including interpretation and technical support, for 340 meetings, a figure that included 65 unplanned sessions. A significant milestone was the in-house development and launch of a modernised, in-house developed web portal featuring full-text search and dual-language visualisation. Simultaneously, the Printing Unit transformed its operations with state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly technology, significantly reducing waste and producing over 77,000 high-quality publications, positioning itself as a potential self-sustaining service for both internal and external services.

3.8.2 A Performance and Impact Driven Union

Renewed Dynamics for the Reform Process

Under the Leadership, H.E. President William Samoei Ruto, Champion of AU institutional reforms, the institutional reforms process continued through active consultations between the Champion, the AUC Chairperson, PRC deliberations mainly through its subcommittee on structural reforms, and other stakeholders to provide political guidance and cultivate consensus in the reform's implementation process.

Work continued to progress across eight (8) key areas as designed in Decision 920 adopted at the AU 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in February 2025:

- Restructuring of the remaining AU Organs, agencies and offices
- Division of labour
- Streamlining of the Agenda of the Summit
- Categorisation of Assembly decisions;
- Financing the Union
- Revitalisation of peace and security frameworks
- Operationalisation of the Court of Justice, and
- Revamping of the Pan-African Parliament.

In line with Decision 920 of the Assembly, H.E. the Champion in consultation with the AUC Chairperson constituted the High-Level Panel of Eminent Experts. The Panel reviewed both the APSA and AGA frameworks at a retreat in Nairobi in September 2025. The review revealed that both APSA and AGA are structurally sound and aligned to the objectives of the AU Constitutive Act. The Panel recommended for the integration of APSA and AGA into a single, coherent framework which will eliminate institutional silos, strengthen coherence, and ensure that governance deficits and security challenges are addressed together.

Through its subcommittee on Structural Reforms, the PRC has so far considered 37 of the 42 structures reviewed by the Consultant in 2023 and the rest of the structures are under consideration. Other structural aspects, such as division of labour and financing the union, are scheduled to be considered by the PRC through its relevant subcommittees and resulting reports will be submitted to the Executive Council in due course.

The AUC continues to actively support the Reform process under the leadership of H.E. the Champion.

A high-level inaugural meeting of the Ad-Hoc Oversight Committee of Heads of States and Governments met virtually on 24 October 2025. Another meeting open



H.E. Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PHD, CGH, President of the Republic of Kenya, Champion for AU Institutional Reforms

to all member states took place on 25 November in Luanda back-to-back after the AU-EU Summit.

During this meeting, H.E. the Champion asked Member States to present their comments and proposals on the reform process as it stands in order to consolidate all the views in a finalised report. The AUC is providing the necessary support to this process. The AUC will also continue to mobilise itself for the success of the Reform and to ensure full alignment on the next steps for the operationalisation of the Reform taking fully into consideration all the financial, legal and administrative dimensions as well as the fundamental aim to reach a better fit-for-purpose Union.

Enhanced Operational Coordination for Impact and Performance

In 2025, the Office of the Director General (ODG) reinforced its central mandate to enhance operational coordination, institutional alignment, and strategic performance across all AU Departments, Directorates, Organs, Regional Offices, and Specialised Agencies. Through structured engagements and refined mechanisms, the ODG ensured that the Union's day-to-day operations and reporting remained rigorously aligned with the strategic priorities of Agenda 2063's Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) and its Moonshot targets.

A cornerstone of this effort was the strengthening of cross-institutional coordination through regular platforms such as the All Directors Monthly Meetings and All Directors Annual Meeting 2025, supported by a dedicated follow-up Action Plan tool to monitor recommendations and drive synergies.



H.E. Chairperson's visit to AUC Offices



Operational Coordination Meeting with All AU Directors in the margins of the 7th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea

To further reduce duplication and enhance policy coherence, the ODG developed a comprehensive matrix, mapping AU policies to sectoral and thematic strategies. This tool links initiatives directly to responsible entities and Agenda 2063 Moonshots, creating a verified, data-driven foundation for evidence-based planning and reporting. Complementing this, the ODG developed a draft AU Thematic Key Messages Matrix at the request of the Chairperson's Cabinet. This framework consolidates inputs from across the Union to articulate a unified African voice, ensuring the continent speaks with clarity and cohesion in global forums.

Substantial improvements were also made in institutional reporting. The ODG led a shift from activity-based to outcome-driven narratives in the Chairperson's Mid-Year Interim and Annual Reports, emphasising evidence, data-backed results and lessons learned to better demonstrate continental progress.

Driving internal digital innovation, the ODG, with support from the Management Information Systems (MIS) department, launched a central SharePoint Platform.

This hub enhances information flow and collaboration by providing real-time access to critical tools, calendars, dashboards, and knowledge resources, thereby strengthening data-driven decision-making.

Financial governance and accountability were significantly advanced through several key initiatives. The ODG operationalised Decision EX.CL/Dec.1168(XLI) by convening the Retreat Before the Budget Retreat (RB4R), directly linking departmental budget proposals to Africa Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Tool (AMERT) and audit performance data, which increased reporting compliance and accountability. Furthermore, the ODG facilitated the Internal Accountability Committee (IAC), which harmonised responses to audit findings, achieved a 75% implementation rate of internal audit recommendations, and developed the forthcoming Audit Tracking Information System (ATIS) to enhance transparency. Through sustained collaboration with the F15 Committee of Experts, the ODG helped align budget reforms and audit processes with the STYIP, bolstering the Commission's credibility in public financial management.

The ODG continued structured collaboration with the F15 Committee of Experts to ensure that budget reforms and audit processes aligned with Agenda 2063's Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan.

Finally, in collaboration with OSPD, OIO, and Finance Departments, the ODG established a standardised framework for assessing technical and performance execution across all AUC entities. This harmonised approach has improved data accuracy in performance reporting, enabling consistent aggregation of results and supporting the AUC's transition toward a fully results-oriented culture.

In 2025, the **Information and Communications Directorate (ICD)** significantly amplified the African Union's voice and visibility, directly supporting the continent's strategic positioning. Through targeted advocacy and high-impact media engagement, the directorate shaped global narratives about Africa. The African Union Media Fellowship graduated its second cohort, whose fellows produced over 1,500 multimedia pieces, while a new call attracted more than 100 000 applicants. ICD managed media for major events, including the 38th AU Summit and the inaugural press briefing of the new AUC Chairperson, and conducted hundreds of interviews and press conferences for AU leadership. Strategic campaigns, such as the "Correct the Map" initiative and the promotion of the 2025 Theme of the Year on reparations, advanced a unified African narrative in international discourse.

Concurrently, ICD drove a digital transformation that extended the AU's reach and refined its public engagement. Key social media platforms saw substantial growth, with Instagram followers increasing by 49% and livestream views rising by 20%. The launch of a dedicated Media Fellowship platform with AI integration and the development of an Agenda 2063 mobile app exemplified innovation in digital advocacy. These efforts contributed to a measurable 30% reduction in misinformation tracked by the Africa Media Monitor.

Furthermore, ICD solidified the AU's institutional memory and knowledge base. User engagement on the digital archives platform surged by 90%, and the African Knowledge Sharing Platform reached over 2.6 million users, ensuring that the AU's history and policies remain accessible as a foundation for future progress.

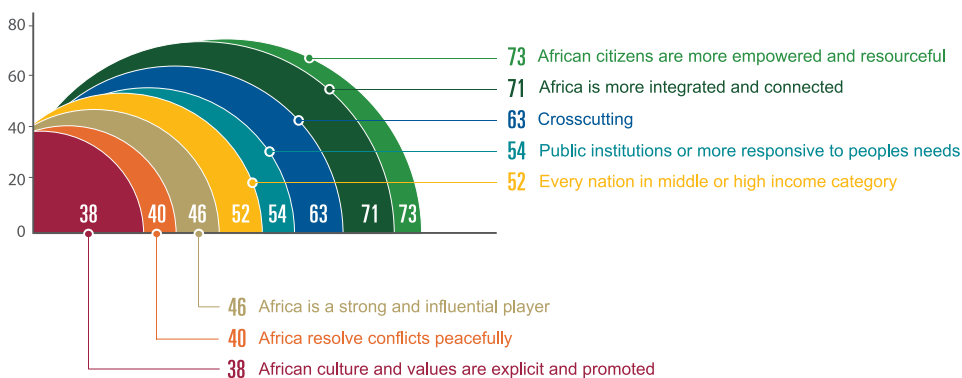
Operationalised Monitoring and Evaluation System

The AUC has finalised the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and the Agenda 2063 Core Indicator Handbook that was adopted during the AU Summit in February 2025. This is the basis of the preparation of the first Biennial Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 STYIP. The Core Indicator Handbook ensures determination of performance at Member States, the Regional Economic Community and continental institutions including AU Organs and development partners. To date 37 Member States, RECs, AU Organs and development partners have submitted inputs to the first Biennial Continental Report on Agenda 2063 Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan that will be presented at the AU Summit in February 2026.

The AUC is currently reviewing the AU Strategic Plan (2024-2028) based on the emerging context of the global polycrisis and geopolitical trends. The AU Strategic Plan (2024-2028) is a derivative of the Agenda 2063 STYIP, it is being developed through consultative and participatory processes, and will be adopted at the AU Summit in 2026.

The AUC prepared the 2024 Annual and 2025 Mid Term Performance Reports, which enabled assessment of performance. The 2025 AU Mid Term Performance Report revealed uneven performance across Moonshots, with social empowerment and integration showing stronger progress, while Africa as a strong and influential global player, conflict resolution, and cultural identity show critical performance gaps.

OUTCOME PERFORMANCE BY MOONSHOTS (JANUARY – JUNE 2025)



Strengthened Audit Internal Control and Oversight

The Office of Internal Oversight (OIO) continued to apply the Internal Audit Standards and Risk-Based Approach to audits and oversight activities during the reporting period.

1. Developed a dashboard to track the execution of the 2024 investigations' recommendations, of which 67% are now in progress.
2. Carried out four (4) audits activities on high-risk IT systems and infrastructure.
3. Completed 21 of the planned 46 financial audit activities for 2025.
4. Embarked on two performance audit projects, which are at reporting stage at year-end.⁵²

52 African Union Commission (AUC). The Office of Internal Oversight (OIO), 2025.

Quality Control Systems for Audit Quality Management

During the reporting period, the OIO finalised and submitted the Terms of References to amend the Investigations Manual and Standard Operating Procedures, so they can be aligned with the relevant International Standards/UN standards. The OIO has also completed the Terms of Reference to engage an independent consultant to conduct an external quality assessment of its operations. Additionally, the OIO was successful in securing funds to support the assessment and modification of its audit quality management systems. Initiatives under this include procuring TeamMate+ audit software, the Investigation Case Management system, and ACL licenses for OIO's data-mining needs.

Communication and Stakeholder Engagements

OIO held internal and external stakeholder engagement activities ranging from:

1. Hosting a benchmarking delegation from the SADC Secretariat to the African Union Commission (AUC)
2. Conducting an external stakeholder engagement workshop, concentrating on the improvement of investigative skills, specifically in the areas of investigation processes and report writing for Peace Support Operations
3. Oversight bodies and the OECD-IDI regional workshop conducted by the Court of Accounts of Djibouti
4. Attending AFROSAI-E's 21st Governing Board meeting and 2025 strategic review. Participation allows the OIO to be informed about worldwide topics that affect audit quality and determine the continental audit trajectory for public administration accountability and transparency
5. The interactions with the AFROSAI General Secretariat in Rabat, Morocco and agreeing on the joint action plan in line with the existing MoU between AUC and AFROSAI
6. Engaging the PRC subcommittee on audit matters through scheduled sessions that facilitate the scrutiny of the Union's performance as well as the oversight of the financial management and accountability.

Going Forward in 2026

The AUC through the Office of the Internal Oversight (OIO) plans to:

1. Enhance the quality control procedures, such as updating our audit and investigation guides
2. Update the audit charter and revise the normal operating procedures for the investigation
3. Establish an automated mechanism for monitoring audit recommendations
4. Improve auditing quality and impact by targeting staff training needs
5. Utilize employment possibilities at the Union to fill essential audit staff shortfalls.

Ethics, Integrity, and Standards (EIS)

In 2025, the African Union Administrative Tribunal (AUAT) resolved a total of 26 staff grievances, comprising 17 judgements and 9 procedural or compliance orders. These were issued following a series of videoconference sessions held between February and September 2025. An additional batch of 14 staff grievances is expected to be finalised before the end of the year.

In the same period, 24 new staff grievances were filed with the Tribunal, bringing the total number of pending matters to 62 as of the reporting date.⁵³

53 African Union Commission (AUC). The Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services, 2025.

The African Union Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services provides an alternative avenue for conflict resolution that complements formal procedures such as litigation, administrative grievances, or disciplinary action.

The Office has successfully drafted Rules of Procedure for the Grievance Panel and submitted them to the Office of the Legal Counsel for legal vetting, marking a significant step toward strengthening the internal justice framework and clarifying procedural consistency.

As part of its Values Promotion Champion (VPC) initiative, the Office has invited five AU Organs and Institutions, namely the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Africa CDC, African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Arusha), and AUDA-NEPAD to nominate focal persons to serve as VPCs.

A confidential platform has been established for grievance reporting, including an anonymous channel for cases related to dispute resolution and abuse of power. The Office continues to provide mediation and informal conflict resolution services to prevent escalation of disputes and reduce the number of cases referred to formal channels.

Case management overview:

- Total cases handled: 67
- Cases resolved: 24
- Consultations and advice provided: 33
- Ongoing cases: 10

Better Servicing the Union

The Office of the Secretary to the Commission (OSC) diligently continued facilitating statutory meetings (Executive Council, Assembly, Mid-Year Coordination Meeting (MYCM)), Drafting Committees, Sub-Committees, Specialised Technical Committees (STCs), retreats, and various ad-hoc sessions.

One of the notable achievements of the period was the streamlining of meeting agendas, leading to more structured, predictable and timely meeting delivery and outcomes. In collaboration with the Cabinet of the Chairperson, the PRC and other relevant stakeholders, the OSC spearheaded the development of focused and concise agendas for the 50th Ordinary Session of the PRC, 47th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 7th MYCM. As a result, for the first time in recent cycles, the PRC concluded deliberations strictly within the decision-mandated timeframe (9-20 June 2025) while the Executive Council and the MYCM also finalised in very good time, marking a major procedural milestone in the AU's ongoing institutional reforms.

The reporting period marked a demonstrable shift towards greater procedural efficiency and institutional coherence across AU statutory processes.

Key Measurable Outcomes

While most planned actions for 2024 were implemented, a few key strategic initiatives were extended into 2025 for contextual or operational considerations:

- The PRC-Commission Retreat: With the election of the remaining Commissioners (ESTI and ETTIM) now completed, plans are underway for holding both the Commission Retreat and the joint PRC-Commission Retreat.
- Development of AU Decision-Making Guideline Manual.

Strengthening Legal Guidance and Support

The Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC) strengthened the Union's legal framework and provided critical guidance across all priorities in 2025. Acting as the depositary for AU treaties, the OLC recorded 14 new signatures and received 20 instruments of ratification from Member States. These actions demonstrated tangible commitment to diverse areas underpinning Agenda 2063, including the AfCFTA and digital transformation (Moonshot 2), fighting corruption and enhancing governance (Moonshot 3), and advancing rights in health, youth, women's empowerment, and disability inclusion (Moonshot 6).

In its advisory capacity, the OLC ensured informed decision-making and institutional compliance by attending 743 meetings and issuing 130 legal opinions on a wide spectrum of administrative and programmatic matters. The Office also fortified the governance of the AU's external relations through the rigorous review and clearance of 113 Memoranda of Understanding and 104 contracts. Furthermore, the OLC fulfilled its judicial and representational mandates by defending the Organisation before the AU Administrative Tribunal in 69 submissions, amid 33 new cases, and by representing the AU's interests in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) proceedings concerning obligations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as directed by the Assembly.⁵⁴

The Office played a central role in the institutional governance of the Union by successfully conducting the elections for key AU organs, including the Commission itself, the Peace and Security Council, and the Advisory Board against Corruption. To build the legal capacity of Member States on emerging issues, the OLC convened a pivotal regional workshop on the technically complex Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement and organised a follow-up session on the implications of the ICJ's landmark Advisory Opinion on climate change obligations.

The **African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL)** continued to implement its mandate in 2025 relating to the codification, progressive development and dissemination of international and AU law.

Key activities included the successful convening of its 11th Forum in a hybrid format from 22-23 May under the theme "International Law, WTO Reform and Implementation of the AfCFTA," fostering dialogue on critical continental and global trade legal frameworks. Shortly before, from 12-27 May, AUCIL held its 25th Ordinary Session to assess progress on several ongoing and finalised substantive studies, including advancement on the draft Convention on Judicial Cooperation and Mutual Assistance and work on a draft model law for domesticating the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, contributing directly to the objectives of Moonshot 6. In alignment with the AU's 2025 Theme of the Year, AUCIL also organised a sensitisation session for African diplomatic missions in New York, focused on the issue of reparations for historical harms suffered by Africans.

⁵⁴ African Union Commission (AUC). Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC), 2025.

Enhancing Coordination with AUDA NEPAD

The AUDA-NEPAD Coordination Unit achieved remarkable milestones in 2025, mainly through (1) providing secretarial services for the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD; and (2) enhancing collaboration and synergy between AUDA-NEPAD and relevant departments of the AUC, including acting as a focal point for AUDA-NEPAD-related issues.

A major milestone was achieved by facilitating the full transformation of the Sub-Committee into a Committee of the Whole, in line with the Executive Council's decision. Following this transformation, the Unit organised an induction session for new members in May, guiding the adoption of its draft Terms of Reference. It also convened a strategic meeting for the Sub-Committee to deliberate on key issues concerning AUDA-NEPAD and the Coordination Unit's work.

The Unit successfully organised the 52nd meeting in September to review AUDA-NEPAD's mid-year activity report and implementation of policy organ decisions. Building on this, it facilitated a pivotal joint annual meeting (the 53rd session) between the Sub-Committee and AUDA-NEPAD's partners in October. This forum reviewed partnership progress, galvanised support for priority programmes aligned with Agenda 2063's STYIP, and formulated actionable recommendations. Subsequently, the 54th meeting in October reviewed the implementation of key Agenda 2063 programmes, including the WorldSkills Africa Initiative.

Concurrently, the Unit successfully deepened collaboration between AUDA-NEPAD and relevant AUC departments, ensuring greater alignment and synergistic action in pursuit of continental development goals.



Conclusion and Strategic Recommendations:

Building A Stronger African Union



One Year into a Mandate, the Foundation for Continuation

As at the end of the year 2025, the Commission has a foundation of achievements on which it can build the rest of its mandate. At the institutional level, a new management team has been set up, a capacity audit has been initiated, while the work of the Ad-hoc Committee on Reforms has ensured the specification of projects to be expedited in the areas of internal reorganisation, governance, and financial autonomy. At the level of programming, the operational launch of the Second Ten-Year Plan of Agenda 2063 clarified the medium-term priorities, determined the milestones of the strategic framework by 2028, and strengthened mechanisms for implementing and monitoring annual budgets and accountability, particularly through the monitoring system for the seven Moonshots and strategic objectives.

The first year also ensured a further structuring of political dialogue with Member States and the RECs/RMs, strengthening of certain strategic partnerships, and the placement of economic transformation and global governance reform at the centre of discussions of the Union. Although there is still room for improvement, the process has witnessed an enhanced clarification and stakeholder buy-in.

Drawing on the Lessons of 2025 to Accelerate Transformation in 2026

A major lesson of 2025 was the fact that the effectiveness of the Union depends less on the number of texts adopted than on the collective ability to implement existing decisions. Data from the joint reports shows that, over the 2016-2020 period, all the sources of financing for African infrastructure (public budgets, private sector, and development partners) mobilised only about USD83 billion annually, i.e. a little more than half of the requirements estimated at USD155 billion.

Similarly, African governments dedicated seven times more resources on average to debt servicing than to infrastructure in 2023, while in some 15 countries, interest payments exceeded infrastructure expenditure.

This data calls for a refocusing of efforts on some key levers – improvement in domestic resource mobilisation, a more strategic reliance on African capital markets, an increase in private sector participation in infrastructure financing, which currently accounts for only about 11%, and the strengthening of African mechanisms for project preparation and certification.

This situation requires the African Union to consolidate the peace and security, governance, economic integration, and sustainable development nexus to ensure that each investment contributes simultaneously to stability, growth and the reduction of inequalities.

Continuing on the Path Towards a More Influential and Citizen-Friendly Union

The scenarios presented by the various departments and partners show that by gradually bridging the investment gap to reach USD155 billion annually, Africa could increase its annual growth rate by 4.5 percentage points by 2040 and generate a cumulative GDP gain of about USD2,830 billion, i.e. more than the current level of the continent's GDP.

These prospects are not abstract projections – they indicate what the combined impact of a more integrated, more reformed, and better financed Union could actually be.

In making projections for 2026 and beyond, the issue is not to increase the number of new frameworks. We should rather provide concrete content for the already existing commitments. This implies the following:

- Consolidating progress made in the area of peace and security by placing prevention, protection of civilians, and resilience at the centre of responses and by strengthening reconciliation, negotiation, and conflict management initiatives on the ground
- Expediting the implementation of AfCFTA and other integration instruments by prioritising concrete gains for businesses, workers, women, and the youth
- Translating commitments on climate justice into strong common positions at international fora and supported by consistent, quantified African proposals and promoted at the highest political level, and
- Bringing the Union closer to its citizens by amplifying its actions, promoting the results achieved through Moonshots and deepening the inclusion of civil society, the private sector, local authorities, young people, women, and the diaspora in the implementation of Agenda 2063.

The foundations laid in 2025 are neither perfect nor sufficient. However, they present a solid platform for deepening transformation, strengthening collective sovereignty, and making the African Union an even more influential stakeholder in the service of the dignity, security, and shared prosperity of its peoples.

“

“Bringing the Union closer to its citizens by amplifying its actions, through the enhanced inclusion of civil society, the private sector, local authorities, young people, women, and the diaspora in the implementation of Agenda 2063.”

H.E. Mahmoud Ali Youssouf
Chairperson of the AUC



Reports of AU Champions (Executive Summaries)

Presented in the same order as the previous Annual Reports

H.M. King Letsie III of The Kingdom of Lesotho AU Champion for Nutrition

In 2025, **His Majesty King Letsie III**, as the **African Union Nutrition Champion**, intensified high-level advocacy to position nutrition as a foundation for Africa's human capital, economic transformation, and resilience. His work advanced the **Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (2016–2025)**, **Agenda 2063**, the **Malabo Declaration**, the **UN Decade of Action on Nutrition**, and the **CAADP Biennial Review**, focusing on six priority pillars: **political leadership; food systems; financing; resilience; data; and partnerships**.

Key achievements in 2025

CONTINENTAL LEADERSHIP: His Majesty elevated nutrition ensuring stronger integration across AU policy organs (STC-ARDWE, STC-HHS), reinforcing links to agriculture, health, social protection, humanitarian action and climate resilience. He mobilised Member States to improve **CAADP Biennial Review** reporting and advocated for nutrition's inclusion in the upcoming **Agenda 2063 Ten-Year Plan**. On food systems transformation, he championed **home-grown school feeding**, diversified diets and local procurement, while supporting climate-smart agriculture and indigenous food value chains through **Africa School Feeding Cluster** and **UNFSS+4** processes. He also supported the formalization of the Ending School-Age Hunger Fund (ESAH) by AfDB and Children's Investment Fund (CIFF).

GLOBALLY, His Majesty advocated for catalytic and innovative financing for nutrition at various continental and global events. His Majesty amplified Africa's voice on nutrition financing at the AU Summit high-level event on **Nutrition Financing and Accountability** (February 2025); the **Food for Education** programme visit in Kenya (March 2025); the **Nutrition for Growth Summit** in France (March 2025); and the Qatar **World Summit for Social Development** side event on **Catalytic Financing for Nutrition** (November 2025). He also advocated with global institutions such as the World Bank to prioritise nutrition and food security in the International Development Association (IDA21) replenishment.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP: Lesotho continued to serve as a flagship model for implementation. Key actions included: the expansion of **Nutrition Clubs** across districts; active engagement of **Principal Chiefs**, who adopted commitments to advance household and school-based nutrition; strengthening of the Food and **Nutrition Coordinating Office (FNCO)**; and integration of nutrition into health reforms, social protection and **NSDP II**. His Majesty also conducted extensive **community outreach**, visiting households, schools and farmer groups and presided over major national events such as the **Farmers' Pitso Awards**, **World Food Day**, the **National Dialogue on Food Systems**, and **Lesotho's 200 Years Market Day**, showcasing local food systems and innovation.

PERSISTENT CHALLENGES: Limited domestic financing; slow implementation of food systems commitments; weak data and reporting capacity; insufficient private sector engagement; and increasing vulnerability due to climate and humanitarian crises.

KEY MESSAGES: His Majesty calls on the AU Commission and Member States to: Sustain high-level political leadership and Multi-sectoral governance; Strengthen Catalytic, innovative and domestic financing; Accelerate food systems transformation; Improve nutrition data, evidence and accountability; Advance climate and humanitarian resilience; Support Nutrition Legacy Projects and deepen partnerships.

Overall, the Champion's 2025 engagements revitalised political will, strengthened financing pathways, and reinforced Africa's nutrition movement. These foundations provide a strong platform for scaling impact in 2026 and beyond, with the Lesotho Permanent Mission committed to sustaining diplomatic and technical support to nutrition as a pillar of Africa's socio-economic transformation.

H.M. King Mohammed VI of The Kingdom of Morocco

AU Champion on Migration

Migration is a structural reality and a driving force for development and resilience in Africa. The African Migration Agenda, launched in 2018, provides for a coordinated, evidence-based, African-led and responsible partnership-based approach to migration governance. This is part of His Majesty King Mohammed VI's mandate as African Union Champion on Migration. It aims at presenting the progress made, existing challenges and actions needed to advance migration governance across the Continent.

Section I - Taking stock and building on achievements

The African Migration Observatory (AMO), inaugurated in Rabat in 2020, marks the major achievement of the implementation of the African Migration Agenda. Over the course of 2025, its activities have strengthened the continent's capacity in generating and analysing reliable data for public policy purposes. The workshop held in Brazzaville in June 2025 provided an opportunity to integrate migration indicators into the Congolese national census planning process, thus continuing on from the actions undertaken in Uganda and Namibia in 2023. Within the region, the AMO has strengthened technical cooperation among the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), notably through workshops organised with the IGAD Member States in Addis Ababa in May 2025 and with the EAC in Dar es Salaam in June 2025, which focused on data harmonisation, visualisation and ethical governance. The AMO also helps set up regional migration data hubs, including the Maghreb Migration Data Hub, a pilot project set up with the AMU. The AMO has put together some key technical tools, such as a standardised glossary, a roadmap for building statistical capacity, and a standardised migration data module to be included in national censuses. It is also playing a pioneering role in highlighting the link between migration and climate change by representing Africa's voice at COPs and global summits. Its contribution to the continental Addendum to the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change has also been decisive.

Section II - Current migration trends and challenges

African migration is predominantly intracontinental: 80% of African migrants reside elsewhere on the continent. This trend contributes to economic integration, social development, skills mobility and trade growth, particularly in West Africa. Large-scale forced displacement is still a major issue due to ongoing conflicts, structural vulnerabilities and the worsening impact of climate change, as seen in the mass migration caused by drought in the Horn of Africa and Cyclone Freddy in Malawi. Africa's rapidly growing youth population, fuelled by the search for economic and educational opportunities, continues to be a key driver of mobility. The African diaspora, estimated at nearly 160 million people, forms a strategic pillar of development: with financial transfers exceeding \$100 billion in 2024 and expected to reach a new record in 2025, demonstrating that despite the fact that transfer costs continue to be among the highest in the world, the diaspora has established itself as the 'sixth region' of the African Union. Its contribution to investment, innovation and knowledge sharing needs to be better leveraged and structured.

Section III – Building towards people-centred governance and equitable partnerships

Africa is committed to people-centred governance that is respectful of human dignity, shared responsibility and migrants' contributions. Morocco continues to work towards bringing the African Migration Agenda and the global governance framework embodied in the 2018 Marrakesh Pact closer together, including through active participation in regional reviews of the Pact. Morocco has continued to leverage its participation and contributions at various international bodies and forums, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development, to advance African priorities. In this spirit, Morocco has organised several events, including a side event during the 80th session of the UN General Assembly on 'Sport as a Tool for Social Inclusion and Migration Governance'.

In addition, the National Strategy on Immigration and Asylum launched by Morocco in 2013 exemplifies the operationalisation of an integration model that guarantees migrants access to essential public services, administrative regularisation and professional integration schemes. In the same vein, Humanised Border Management provides a

new model of inspiration, where migrants are not perceived as a threat, but as an asset that strengthens the vibrancy and richness of Moroccan society and, as such, contributes to the virtuous goal of nurturing migrants' potential.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The year 2025 has seen Africa make substantial progress in building sovereign, coherent and people-centred migration governance. Migration has ceased to be a passive issue and has become a strategic area of action where the Continent sets its own priorities, develops its own tools and speaks with a unified voice on the international stage.

With the partial operationalisation of the African Migration Observatory, the Continent now has an unprecedented capacity for insight and foresight, essential for debunking myths and informing policy with factual realities. Through global advocacy, the African Agenda has become a benchmark, synergising with the Marrakesh Pact.

Nevertheless, there are still a number of key challenges. Factors driving forced displacement, particularly conflict and climate shocks, continue to mount. There is a growing divergence between Africa's approach to development and mobility against external partners' focus on security and border control.

In order to build on the achievements made and address the challenges, the African Union needs to implement the following recommendations:

1. Strengthening the African Migration Observatory (AMO) and data governance. Sufficient financial and human resources are crucial to ensure that the AMO meets its operational needs. Efforts to extend the model of regional data hubs to all RECs should be actively supported to ensure access to reliable data at all levels of decision-making
2. Appointment of an African Union Special Envoy on Migration. This flagship African Agenda is now more relevant than ever. Such a position would strengthen coordination of African initiatives, ensure high-level political leadership, and accord the Continent a stronger and more coherent voice in the international arena.
3. Active advocacy for legal migration channels and intra-African mobility. Africa should intensify its calls to international partners to establish an ambitious expansion of safe and regular migration channels.
4. African Union should invest more in a proactive communication strategy with a balanced and constructive discourse on migration based on factual data. This involves effectively addressing misinformation and the stigmatisation of migrants, while highlighting their contribution to development in host societies and countries of origin.
5. Mainstreaming climate mobility into development and adaptation strategies. In light of accelerating climate-related displacement, mobility should be urgently mainstreamed into adaptation plans and development strategies. Africa should advocate for equitable and accessible climate financing that supports the resilience of affected communities, prevents forced displacement, and protects the rights of the climate-displaced.
6. As part of a collective continental effort, initiate discussions on the drafting and adoption of an African charter on humanised border management, strengthening existing standards and ensuring an optimal balance between legal, operational, ethical, moral and fundamentally human requirements.

H.E. Abiy Ahmed

Prime Minister of The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

AU Champion on CAADP Biennial Review

The **Fifth Biennial Review (BR5)** marks the conclusion of the **CAADP Malabo Declaration (2015–2025)**, Africa's continental framework for accelerating agricultural growth, reducing poverty, enhancing food security and nutrition, and strengthening resilience. Adopted in 2014, the Malabo Declaration reaffirmed the **10% public expenditure commitment to agriculture and a 6% annual agricultural growth target**, alongside seven key commitments covering investment, hunger eradication, trade, resilience, and mutual accountability.

The BR5 is based on **validated data from 45 AU Member States**, assessing performance across **49 indicators** against a benchmark score of **9.40 out of 10**. The **continental average score increased to 5.25 in 2025**, up from **4.56 in the fourth BR**, reflecting steady progress in agricultural governance, data systems, and accountability. **Twenty-eight countries** achieved at least half of the maximum score ($\geq 5/10$), while **seven countries** - Cabo Verde, Kenya, Lesotho, Morocco, Nigeria, Uganda, and Zimbabwe - showed **continuous improvement across all five review cycles**. **Seventeen countries** maintained an average score above 5 across the decade. **Morocco, Rwanda, and Egypt** emerged as the top overall performers, and the **Southern Region** performed best.

Performance was strongest in **mutual accountability, data institutionalization, and climate resilience**, demonstrating the value of the Biennial Review as a mechanism for evidence-based planning and peer learning. However, **major gaps persist in agricultural investment, intra-African agricultural trade, and ending hunger**. Notably, **no country is on track to achieve the Malabo commitment on ending hunger by 2025**, underscoring the urgency of accelerated action.

The report also reviews progress on **ten AU thematic decisions**, including livestock development, fisheries and aquaculture, seed systems, soil health and fertilizer use, irrigation, mechanization, SPS systems, land policy, ecological organic agriculture, and biofortification - key enablers for inclusive and resilient agrifood systems.

Released at a pivotal moment - following the **UN Food Systems Summit +4** and the **Second Africa Climate Summit** - BR5 situates Africa's agricultural transformation within global food systems and climate action agendas. Aligned with the AU's **2025 theme on justice and reparations**, the review emphasizes equity, inclusion, and correcting structural imbalances in land, trade, nutrition, and access to opportunities.

BR5 concludes the Malabo era while laying a strong foundation for the **CAADP Kampala Declaration on Food Systems Transformation (2026 - 2035)**. The next phase has six strategic objectives and calls for **increased investment, stronger data governance, hunger and nutrition prioritization, climate resilience, expanded intra-African trade, digital innovation, and inclusive growth**, ensuring that Africa's agrifood systems deliver prosperity, food sovereignty, and resilience for future generations.

H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi

President of The Arab Republic of Egypt

AU Champion on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD)

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN UNION POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY (AU PCRD POLICY):

1. I am pleased to present this report, in my capacity as the African Union Champion on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AU PCRD), on the progress made in implementing the AU PCRD Policy during 2025.
2. Since its adoption in 2006, the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy (AU PCRD Policy) has undergone significant progress, with mandates emanating from a number of decisions of the African Union Assembly and the Peace and Security Council (PSC). Most notably, the PSC Communique adopted during its 1047th Session, mandated the review of the AU PCRD Policy Framework to consolidate its response to an ever-evolving security environment, including through widening the scope of AU PCRD to cover the entire conflict cycle, and incorporating a peacebuilding dimension. Following a review on those lines, the revised AU PCRD Policy was adopted by the AU Assembly in February 2024. It emphasizes holistic approaches combining peacebuilding, institutional capacity-building, socio-economic recovery and reconciliation.
3. The Revised AU PCRD Policy has served as a cornerstone in African Union efforts towards promoting peace, security and development. It presented a pivotal framework guiding African countries through the complex processes of recovery, stabilization, and sustainable development following periods of conflict. It also supports efforts to achieve the aspirations of Agenda 2063.
4. In a further step to advancing our collective commitments to PCRD, the AU PSC, at its 1297th meeting on 15 August 2025, adopted the Terms of Reference for its Sub-Committee on Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, established pursuant to Article 8(5) of the PSC Protocol. It also called for the immediate operationalization of the Sub-Committee, urging Member States and stakeholders to collaborate in its work. The Sub-Committee is anticipated to play a pivotal role in promoting PCRD efforts and assisting conflict-affected countries in restoring governance, rule of law, and socio-economic stability in line with AU Agenda 2063, by addressing their unique post-conflict challenges.
5. In support of AU member states' PCRD agenda, the African Union Commission held technical consultation workshops in Rwanda and Togo in September and December 2025 respectively, with RECs, REMs, and other stakeholders contributing to a review of PCRD Policy progress. Participants discussed the Revised PCRD Policy and stressed the need to accelerate its implementation, given Africa's changing conflict landscape and the importance of coordinated post-conflict strategies.
6. In 2025, the AU PCRD Centre in Cairo conducted a series of activities and programs to enhance awareness on the AU PCRD Policy. It aimed at strengthening the capacities of individuals and institutions in recovery, reconciliation, stabilization, and development, as effective methods for conflict resolution and prevention, and the promotion of sustainable peace and security, including:
 - a) Somalia: A Capacity Building Program for National Institutions of Somalia was held during 14–16 April 2025 in Mogadishu. The aim of the program was to introduce and expose the stakeholders in Somalia to the AU Revised PCRD Policy.
 - b) Madagascar: a dialogue on the Inclusion of Women in Political Spaces and Peacebuilding in Madagascar was held during 28–30 April 2025 in Antananarivo. The dialogue aimed at highlighting the effective mechanisms for the involvement and active participation of women in decision-making/leadership processes and above all in the development of their country.

- c) Egypt: the AUC PCRD Centre organized a meeting in Cairo in May 2025 to the African Ambassadors accredited to Egypt to promote the AU Revised PCRD Policy.
 - d) Egypt: hosted the first of its kind youth capacity building and training program on AU PCRD and Peacebuilding during the period from September 29th to October 1st, 2025. The training emphasized the inclusion of youth and women in the PCRD framework and linking the right to development with the peacebuilding agenda.
7. We commend the implementation of the first Quick Impact Project (QIP) by the AUC PCRD Centre. The Centre successfully delivered its first QIP, the full renovation of a public school, in Liberia. The project was launched during “the Regional Youth Strategy Forum on Peacebuilding and the Right to Development” held by the Centre in Monrovia during the period 19 – 21 December, 2025.
 8. We praise this important step and call upon the Centre, in collaboration with the AU Commission, to focus on implementation of more QIPs in conflict-affected African countries in 2026 for its direct impact and rapid and tangible results in the PCRD process. We also call for diversifying this kind of projects to address the needs of people in these countries in the areas of water, sanitation, health, education and others.

II. OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICA UNION CENTER FOR POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (AUC PCRD):

9. I have directed the Egyptian Government, as host country, to promptly finalize the state-of-the-art headquarters of the AUC-PCRD Centre, which is already prepared in Egypt’s New Capital pending the handover process after fulfilling the relevant administrative requirements. In the meantime, the Egyptian Government has assigned an interim premises for the AUC PCRD Centre in Cairo, which currently awaits the AU Commission internal process for handover of the said premises.
10. The AU Commission is requested to take all the appropriate measures, including the recruitment of the necessary staff, in order to expedite the full, efficient and effective operationalization of the Center at the earliest possible date.
11. I look forward to continued engagement with the African Union Commission and the AUC PCRD Centre in implementing all relevant decisions related to PCRD and peacebuilding activities in Africa.

III. COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTH POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT AWARENESS WEEK ON THE REVISED 2024 AU PCRD POLICY:

12. The Fifth AU PCRD Awareness Week on the Revised 2024 AU PCRD Policy was held during the period 17-23 November 2025 under the theme “Rebuilding Lives After Conflict through Reparative Justice.” Cairo hosted its key activities, including:
 - a) The Second Edition of the High-Level Seminar on PCRD, organized by the AUC PCRD Centre in coordination with the Egyptian Government, which was held under the theme “Reparatory Justice and Resilient Recovery for Women, Children, and People in vulnerable situations.” The seminar witnessed diverse participation from relevant stakeholders, including representatives from member states, civil society organizations, think tanks, academics, and the private sector. Participants underscored the imperative of addressing the specific needs of women, youth, children and other people in vulnerable situations in post-conflict settings, and highlighted the role of reparatory justice and recovery processes in fostering reconciliation and restoring trust for victims.
 - b) A roundtable discussion was held on the contributions of the AUC PCRD Center and the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCCPA), to building and sustaining peace in the Greater Horn of Africa. The roundtable discussed the

- importance of adopting a comprehensive approach to PCRD, focusing on regional challenges, current efforts, and the practical implementation of the AU PCRD Policy through strengthening both individual and institutional capacities.
- c) In line with efforts to raise awareness on the importance of PCRD efforts, a modeling exercise was conducted for the first time with the participation of high school students. The exercise entailed a simulation of an AU Heads of State and Government Assembly session, and was held alongside the High-Level Seminar. The purpose of this initiative was to promote awareness of the AU PCRD Policy among youth.
13. The Fifth PCRD Awareness Week featured further events at the African Union Headquarters. These included the launch of the Second Edition of the AU Journal on PCRD, and the Annual Joint Consultative Meeting between the AU PSC and members of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) that discussed the progress and strengthening coordination between the AU and the UN in the areas of peacebuilding, PCRD and recovery across the African continent. The AU PSC also convened its annual session to consider the Report of the AUC Chairperson on PCRD and to review achievements and challenges encountered in PCRD efforts across the continent, and assess the impact and effectiveness of the PCRD Awareness Week.
14. We commend the PSC for its Communiqué issued in the 1312th meeting held on 17 November 2025, which requests that the AU Commission extend the period for the commemoration of the PCRD Awareness Raising from one week to one month, effective from 2026.
15. We will work closely with the AU Commission in the upcoming period to develop operational guidelines for the implementation of the Revised Policy in order to achieve policy coherence within AU institutions. We will seek to enhance the implementation of the Revised PCRD Policy through collaborative efforts among member states, regional stakeholders and international partners.

IV. ENHANCING PARTNERSHIPS TO EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENT THE AUC PCRD POLICY:

16. Egypt hosted the Fifth edition of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development during 19-20 October 2025 in Aswan. The Fifth edition was held under the theme “A World in Flux, A Continent in Motion: Navigating Africa’s Progress Amid Global Shifts.” The high-level event brought together African and international high-level officials, representatives from international and regional organizations, think tanks, the private sector, and many others stakeholders to advance African-led solutions that strengthen the peace-security-development (PSD) nexus in Africa.
17. The Aswan Forum sessions intensively addressed the current regional and international challenges facing the African Continent that impede its peace, security and development. The high-level panelists underscored, among others, the importance of inclusivity and participation of women and youth in peace and development efforts, addressing the root causes to sustain peace and build resilience, and PCRD efforts to enhance conflicts prevention, solution and peace building efforts.

H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé

President of The Republic of Togo

AU Champion on SAATM

The Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063 of the African Union, was launched during the 30th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Union held on 28 and 29 January 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The SAATM seeks to advance economic integration and liberalise air travel as a true manifestation of the political will of African leaders. Consequently, it is anticipated that the continent will gain from job creation, increased GDP, improved connectivity through the launching of new routes, increased tourism, lower ticket prices, and collaboration among airlines.

Since the launch of the market in 2018, the number of States that have signed the solemn commitment has continued to increase, rising from twenty-three to thirty-eight today, with Malawi acceding to it in 2025. It should be observed that twenty-six of these States have signed the memorandum for the implementation of the Yamoussoukro and SAATM Implementation Decision adopted in Lomé in May 2018.

Furthermore, twenty States have now joined the SAATM Pilot Implementation Project, which was launched in Dakar in November 2022 with the objective of encouraging all Member States to expedite the implementation of the Yamoussoukro and SAATM Decision.

Progress made so far with the implementation of the SAATM includes the following, in particular:

- The creation of 113 new routes, including nineteen in operation with fifth freedom traffic rights
- The number of passengers transported along these new routes is estimated at over three million
- An increase in connectivity by 23%, compared to 19% in 2023; and
- The signing of more than 80 bilateral air service agreements between African States.

The President of the Council of the Togolese Republic, His Excellency Mr Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE, the Champion on SAATM, is continuing his advocacy with his Peers to ensure the accession of all African States, as well as with technical and financial partners, to provide support to the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), the executing agency of the Yamoussoukro and SAATM Decision.

In addition, as part of the monitoring of the implementation of SAATM, the Champion granted audience to the Secretary-General of AFCAC in January 2025, during which he underscored the importance of proactive measures to move the SAATM Agenda forward and assured the AFCAC of his continuous support for initiatives that promote regional integration and economic development through aviation.

As part of its role as the executing agency of the Yamoussoukro and SAATM Decision, and in addition to actions intended to support the States in the implementation of the single market, the AFCAC has taken the following actions, in particular:

- Developed a model for the economic regulation of air transport
- Initiated a review of the Yamoussoukro Decision in order to align it with best international practices to lift existing restrictions and ensure the full liberalisation of the market
- Established the Board of Directors of the Aviation Dispute Resolution Mechanism to thenceforth provide legal security to States and users, and

- Carried out studies on:
 - i. Freight services and the liberalisation of commercial routes to support the SAATM and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
 - ii. Socio-economic advantages of aviation, and
 - iii. Competition in the African aviation market.

In spite of the progress made, some challenges persist. These are, among others, the worrying delay on the part of some States to join the market, protectionist policies applied by certain States in favour of their national carriers, poor cooperation among airlines and the lack of harmonised regulations.

To address these challenges, the Champion on SAATM will continue to advocate with his Peers to ensure the full accession of African States. Thus, to ensure a coordinated implementation of the SAATM, a high-level meeting on African air transport will be held in Lomé in June 2026 under the auspices of the Champion.

H.E. Paul Kagame

President of The Republic of Rwanda

AU Champion on Domestic Health Financing

Africa's overarching objectives in the health sector remain to build strong and resilient systems through strengthening of critical areas involving regulatory frameworks, pharmaceutical manufacturing, human capital and skills, as well as sustainable financing.

As the AU Champion on Domestic Health Financing, H.E. Paul Kagame chaired a high-level meeting on the sidelines of the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government held in Addis-Ababa in February 2025. He reiterated that to close funding gaps in African health systems, countries must contribute more domestic resources and engage the continent's philanthropies and private sector. While Africa's health cannot be outsourced, increased investment from the continent can have a multiplier effect on financing from external partners and improve health outcomes.

In keeping with domestic financing priorities, AUDA-NEPAD continued to engage member states through 2025 to mobilize new resources and also connected with development partners to secure new collaborative ties.

Global partnerships included AUDA-NEPAD's participation in the G20 Ministers of Health and the Health Working Group under South Africa's G20 chairmanship. AUDA-NEPAD led strategic dialogues on the AfCFTA Pharmaceutical Industrialisation Initiative, the 24-Priority Medical Products Initiative and the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) program. Separately, AMRH benefited from a European Union 10 million euros support to AUDA-NEPAD initiatives.

Multilateral partnerships in the form of the Africa-China Cooperation secured \$1 billion for regional projects including pharmaceutical manufacturing and other development sectors (energy transition, technology transfer and infrastructure). A Memorandum of Understanding was also formalized with the regional non-profit African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) to advance innovative health financing by leveraging data-based development research and policies.

Private sector and academic partnerships included an agreement with the advocacy organization called 'Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases' which helps to build solutions for sustainable financing for this type of diseases. A collaboration with Georgetown University in the U.S. led to the launch of the Collaborating Centre for Health Market Development aiming to enhance innovative health financing and governance.

AUDA-NEPAD further supported health programs as follows:

1. The **African Medicines Agency (AMA)**, through developing continental technical guidelines, providing financial support to recruit AMA's Director General, and creating the Green Book which is a registry of quality-assured medicinal products. In addition, the Republic of Rwanda where the African Medicines Agency is headquartered indicated that thirty-two (32) countries had so far ratified the AMA treaty. However, as one of these, Mozambique is still in the process of depositing its instrument of ratification. The current official count therefore stands at thirty-one (31) member states, while six (6) of the latter have also contributed USD 100,000 each to support AMA's operationalization.
2. The **Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA)** through launching of the 24-Priority Medical Products Initiative to accelerate local production of essential medicines across the continent. A USD 500,000 was mobilised to drive regional technical coordination and the development of compelling investment cases.
3. Securing an additional USD 2 million for its **Programme for Investments and Financing Africa's Health Sector (PIFAH)**. AUDA-NEPAD is also preparing the State of Africa's Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Report to inform policy and guide future investments in this sector.

H.E. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo

President of The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

AU Champion on Positive Masculinity

I. ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN

A. ON THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

(i) Adoption of the African Union Convention

On 16 February 2025, His Excellency, President and Head of State Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO rallied the continent's Heads of State, who adopted the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. The grand ceremony was preceded by an advocacy dinner co-organised by President Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI's team and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the AU Commission on Women, Peace and Security.

(ii) Signing of the Convention by the Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo signed the Convention through its Minister of Regional Integration at the signing ceremony held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 9 to 13 August 2025, to mark the adoption of the Convention by Member States

(iii) Attendance at the Lusaka Forum

In October 2025, at the AUDA-NEPAD-organised event in Lusaka, Republic of Zambia, the Office of the President of the Republic shared the progress it has made on the subject and its experience. The aim of the second knowledge-sharing forum was to assess the ongoing efforts of Member States across North, West and Central Africa.

(iv) Johannesburg Forum

The DRC participated in the meeting held on 30 November 2025, to set priorities for women, which South Africa will present to the 20 most developed nations at the G20 summit.

B. ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL

(i) **Integration of Positive Masculinity into National Action Plans** as a prevention approach under the third-generation National Action Plan for Resolution 1325, and into the action plans of the DRC Armed Forces and National Police to combat sexual violence in conflict zones.

(ii) **Signing of a pledge by 121 MPs** to promote Positive Masculinity in parliamentary (legislative) proceedings;

(iii) **Adoption of a 40% mandatory quota for women** among new recruits to the judiciary in May 2025;

Outreach and awareness-raising programmes aimed at encouraging men to embrace positive masculinity through radio and television broadcasts on national stations in August and October 2025, as well as programmes targeting students at universities in Kinshasa and the province of Kasaï Central.

H.E. João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço

President of The Republic of Angola

AU Champion on Peace and Reconciliation in Africa

I. INTRODUCTION

- The present report provides detailed information on the activities carried out during the period from February to December 2025, within the framework of the mandate conferred upon me by our Organization as the African Union Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa.

II. MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- Active participation in initiatives and Summits between SADC and the East African Community, which harmonised and consolidated the Luanda and Nairobi Processes and designated the Facilitators of the Peace Process in Eastern DRC, representing the five regions of the continent.
- Designation and appointment, in April 2025, at the initiative of the Champion, of His Excellency Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, President of the Council of Togo, as the new Mediator of the Peace Process in Eastern DRC, thereby ensuring continuity of the pacification efforts previously undertaken under the Luanda and Nairobi Processes.
- Deployment of the Champion's Special Envoy to Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, in June 2025, with a view to identifying solutions to the challenges of institutional crises and the growing threat of terrorism in the region and on the continent. This mission also aimed at opening new channels of dialogue with the African Union and establishing an AU follow-up mechanism for the aforementioned countries.
- Designation, in July 2025, of His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, as African Union (AU) Special Envoy for the Sahel Region, to promote peace, inclusive dialogue, national reconciliation and political stability.
- Monitoring of several conflicts within the framework of the activities of the African Union Peace and Security Council (PSC), including those in the DRC, Sudan, Somalia and the Sahel region, with a view to contributing to their resolution. Noteworthy is also participation in other initiatives, such as the Paris Conference in Support of Peace and Prosperity in the Great Lakes Region and the 2nd Edition of the Lomé Peace and Security Forum (LPSF II).
- Contribution of a donation of five million United States dollars (USD 5,000,000) to the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) Fund, aimed at strengthening capacities for prevention, early detection and effective response to disease outbreaks, health emergencies and epidemics on the continent. This action contributes to social stability and peace.
- On the occasion of Angola's Presidency of the AU Peace and Security Council, in September 2025, a high-level meeting on "Revitalising Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa" was held on the margins of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
- Participation, as a guest, in the Ceremony for the Signing of the Peace Agreement between the DRC and Rwanda, held in Washington on 4 December of the current year.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

- During the year 2025, within a period of 60 days, two coups d'état were recorded, namely in Madagascar and Guinea-Bissau, as well as an attempted coup d'état in Benin. In this context, the African Union's early warning mechanisms should be strengthened, as well as follow-up mechanisms and enhanced dialogue with countries experiencing unconstitutional changes of democratically elected governments.
- The need for the full operationalisation of the African Union Peace Fund, as well as the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2719, concerning the financing of Peace Support Operations.

H.E. John Dramani Mahama

President of The Republic of Ghana

AU Champion on the AU Financial Institutions

This annual report, submitted by His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana and African Union Champion on Financial Institutions, to the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in February 2026, in accordance with Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 819(XXXV). It provides a comprehensive update on the progress toward operationalizing the African Union Financial Institutions, namely, the African Central Bank (ACB), African Investment Bank (AIB), African Monetary Fund (AMF), and Pan African Stock Exchanges (PASE).

While the African continent demonstrated economic resilience with growth projected at 4% in 2025, the report underscores that rising debt servicing costs make the achievement of financial sovereignty an urgent priority. Significant milestones have been reached, most notably the scheduled operationalization of the African Monetary Institute in September 2026 following the legal endorsement of its statute by the Specialized Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs and by the relevant AU Policy Organs. Progress regarding the African Investment Bank and the African Monetary Fund remains steady but requires accelerated action, as the Investment Bank needs nine more ratifications and the Monetary Fund requires thirteen more to reach the legal thresholds necessary for entry into force. Meanwhile, the Pan-African Stock Exchange is advancing through the African Exchanges Linkage Project, which has successfully connected eleven stock exchanges across eighteen countries to facilitate cross-border capital flow.

The report further highlights critical flanking measures intended to bolster the continent's financial independence, including the establishment of the African Credit Rating Agency with Mauritius designated as its primary jurisdiction and a projected launch in late 2026. Strategic advocacy continues through the High-Level Working Group on the Reform of Global Financial Architecture, focusing on a unified African position regarding debt restructuring and fairer governance in global systems. Despite these advancements, the primary obstacles to full operationalization continue to be the slow pace of treaty ratification and insufficient budgetary allocations for the African Monetary Institute. Consequently, the Champion urges Member States to prioritize the ratification of pending protocols, increase financial commitments to ensure the 2026 launch of the Monetary Institute, and operationalize the African Credit Rating Agency in 2026. Considering these dynamics, I convened a high-level presidential side event during the 80th United Nations General Assembly on 24th September 2025 at Westin New York Grand Central Hotel. Themed "Unlocking Africa's Financial Sovereignty: The Role of African Union Financial Institutions in a New Global Order," the session addressed Africa's staggering \$1.3 trillion annual financing gap, which continues to hinder progress toward Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. The event served as a critical platform to mobilize political will for the expedited operationalization AIB, the AMF, the ACB, and the PASE. These collective actions are essential to securing Africa's economic future before the next progress report is presented to the Assembly in 2027.

H.E. Daniel Francisco Chapo

President of The Republic of Mozambique

AU Champion for Disaster Risk Management

In 2025, His Excellency Daniel Francisco Chapo, President of the Republic of Mozambique and African Union (AU) Champion for Disaster Risk Management (DRM), continued to advance Africa's efforts to reduce disaster risk and strengthen climate resilience. Amid escalating climate-related hazards, including severe floods, droughts, cyclones, and heatwaves, his leadership mobilised political commitment, improved continental coordination, and promoted greater investment in resilience.

Africa remains among the world's most climate-vulnerable regions, with over 221 million people affected by disasters between 2021 and 2025. The 2024/25 season was especially severe, marked by destructive cyclones, extensive flooding, and prolonged drought, deepening food insecurity across the Horn and Southern Africa. These impacts highlight the urgency of stronger risk governance, anticipatory action, and increased financing for disaster risk reduction (DRR).

Under the Champion's leadership, 2025 saw notable progress, including:

- Stronger political advocacy for implementing the Programme of Action for the Sendai Framework
- Enhanced engagement with AU institutions, RECs, and Member States
- Active representation of Africa in global and regional DRM platforms, and
- Operationalisation of the Community Resilience and Recovery Facility (CRRF).

He also issued a continental message on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, calling for greater domestic investment under the theme Finance Resilience, Not Disaster.

Persistent challenges, however, continue to slow progress, including limited institutional capacities, inadequate disaster loss data systems, and insufficient domestic financing for DRR. The report calls for increased investment in institutional strengthening, systematic data collection, and sustainable Member State financing to ensure effective delivery of continental DRR priorities. Continued political leadership and predictable resources remain essential to building a safer, more resilient Africa aligned with Agenda 2063 and the Sendai Framework.

H.E. Dr José Maria Pereira Neves

President of The Republic of Cabo Verde

AU Champion on Preservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage in Africa

This report, submitted to the 39th Conference of the African Union, presents the activities undertaken by the President of the Republic of Cabo Verde, Dr José Maria Neves, in his mandate as African Union Champion for the Preservation of Africa's Natural and Cultural Heritage. **The guiding strategy promotes a renewed “Heritage Consciousness” by linking the safeguarding of memory to community development and to Africa's fair and dignified representation on the global stage.**

Vision and Actions in Cabo Verde

At the core of the President's vision stands the **“Forgotten Heritage”** Initiative, launched as part of the commemorations of Cabo Verde's Fiftieth Independence Anniversary. The initiative seeks to rescue historical sites at risk of degradation. Key interventions include: the restoration of the historic **Aéropostale hydro-base** on **Santiago Island**, which in 1927 established the first aerial connection linking Cabo Verde to Europe and Latin America; preservation actions targeting the **Fort of Príncipe Real de Preguiça** on **São Nicolau Island**; and the former **Tarrafal Concentration Camp**. **The overarching objective is to mobilise international cooperation and, above all, to engage local communities in the safeguarding and transmission of their collective memory.**

African World Heritage Day Speech – Nairobi, May 2025

“The Paradigm of Authenticity and the Engagement of Local Communities”

A pivotal moment of the mandate occurred during the President's address at the Nairobi International Conference in May 2025. President Neves presented a transformative paradigm: that the vitality of African heritage is rooted not only in monuments and sites, but in **oral traditions** and **living practices**. Local populations are recognised as the primary custodians of culture, and community empowerment is a decisive factor for their successful preservation, as illustrated by the removal of the **Tombs of the Kings of Buganda (Uganda)** and **Niokolo-Koba Park (Senegal)** from the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger. **As Champion, he emphasised the need for inclusive public policies that integrate local history into school curricula and promote sustainable heritage-based economies such as ecotourism.**

Institutional Leadership and Notable Progress

Leadership:

2025 marked the consolidation of President Neves's regional leadership. **He was appointed Patron of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) and Sponsor of UNESCO's General History of Africa Programme.**

Progress Achieved: The year's achievements include tangible advances recorded during the 47th Session of the World Heritage Committee, notably the inscription of new African sites on the World Heritage List and the removal of three African sites – from Madagascar, Egypt, and Libya – from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Additionally, and of no less importance, the Champion presided over the opening of the judicial year of the **African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights**, held under the theme **Promoting Justice Through Reparations**.

Message from the Official Visit to Senegal – July 2025

The visit to highly symbolic landmarks – **Gorée Island**, the **Museum of Black Civilisations**, and the **African Renaissance Monument** – carried profound political and spiritual meaning. The Champion reaffirmed that the painful history embodied in Gorée must strengthen Africa's vigilance in upholding human rights. The central message emphasised that the **authentic African Renaissance rests on reclaiming Africa's own narrative, while celebrating and ensuring continuity between ancestral heritage and the continent's cultural affirmation of sovereignty in global contemporaneity.**

Future Perspectives

President Neves reiterates his **commitment to continue advocating for the protection of Africa's material, intangible, marine, and terrestrial heritage**. He calls for collective responsibility and solidarity among **governments, international organisations, and private sector actors**. Heritage must be safeguarded and celebrated as an essential legacy for future generations.

H.E. Dr. Patrick Herminie

President of The Republic of Seychelles

AU Champion on Blue Economy

1. VISION

Seychelles' vision as Africa's Blue Economy Champion is anchored in strong governance, science-based decision-making, and regional cooperation. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) with a vast ocean territory, Seychelles brings practical experience, innovation, and credibility to continental Blue Economy efforts. Through knowledge-led and innovative approaches, Seychelles seeks to unlock Africa's development potential via the Blue Economy, while remaining firmly committed to conserving the integrity of its marine environment and safeguarding its ocean heritage for present and future generations.

As Champion, Seychelles seeks to:

- Promote African-led Blue Economy solutions aligned with the AU Blue Economy Strategy and Agenda 2063;
- Support proportionate and context-specific implementation of Blue Economy approaches;
- Strengthen South–South cooperation, peer learning, and knowledge exchange across Africa; and
- Elevate the role of ocean governance, policy coherence, and capacity building as foundations for sustainable ocean-based development.

2. KEY BLUE ECONOMY CHAMPION ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2025

During 2025, Seychelles actively advanced its Champion role through the following key areas:

2.1 Policy Leadership and Advocacy

- Provided strategic inputs into **African Union Blue Economy dialogues**, highlighting the importance of governance, legal frameworks, and ocean-climate linkages.
- Promoted Seychelles' experience in **marine spatial planning, marine protection, and integrated ocean governance** as practical reference models for African coastal and island states.

2.2 Knowledge Sharing and Peer Learning

- Supported **knowledge-exchange initiatives** with AU institutions and Member States, focusing on sustainable ocean governance, policy design, and institutional coordination.
- Contributed to discussions on establishing **Blue Economy knowledge and data platforms** to improve access to information for policymakers and entrepreneurs.

2.3 Blue Finance and Innovation

- Shared Seychelles' experience with **innovative Blue Finance mechanisms**, including Blue Bonds and debt-for-nature approaches, as scalable concepts for African contexts.
- Engaged in continental discussions on improving **investment readiness and enabling environments** for sustainable Blue Economy enterprises.

2.4 Capacity Building and Awareness

- Supported capacity-building initiatives aimed at strengthening understanding of the Blue Economy among public institutions, stakeholders, and youth.
- Advanced education and awareness initiatives, reinforcing the role of **ocean literacy** as a cornerstone of long-term Blue Economy sustainability.

2.5 Regional and International Partnerships

- Strengthened collaboration with **African Union institutions, regional organisations, and development partners**, positioning Seychelles as a convenor and trusted partner.
- Advocated for increased coordination among African states to avoid duplication and enhance collective impact in Blue Economy initiatives.

3. LOOKING AHEAD

Building on progress made in 2025, Seychelles will continue to champion a **pragmatic, RISC free** Blue Economy, with emphasis on governance, knowledge sharing, youth engagement, and strategic partnerships. Through its Champion role, Seychelles remains committed to supporting Africa in harnessing the ocean as a driver of sustainable development, resilience, and shared prosperity.

H.E. Abdelmadjid Tebboune

President of The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

AU Champion for Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism

At this critical juncture in the continental security landscape, terrorism has become one of the most far-reaching threats confronting Africa's stability, sovereignty and long-term aspirations. Its expansion, sophistication and embeddedness within local and transnational environments reveal a structural transformation that demands a unified, strategic and sustained continental response.

Extremist groups have evolved into hybrid systems that combine insurgency, coercive governance, illicit economies and ideological influence. They increasingly seek to supplant legitimate State authority by exploiting governance vacuums, community grievances and uneven territorial administration. The Sahel presents the most alarming illustration of this evolution. By the end of 2025, extremist networks have demonstrated the ability to impose severe constraints on national circulation routes, disrupt vital economic corridors and undermine institutional functioning in several States. These actions reflect a deliberate strategy of territorial pressure and economic strangulation designed to weaken governments and fragment national cohesion. These dynamics have progressively extended toward coastal West Africa, where extremist organizations exploit porous borders, artisanal mining zones and remote forested areas to establish operational footholds. Their movement toward littoral regions signals a strategic intent to reach new economic spaces and reshape regional balances.

In East and Central Africa, the resilience and adaptability of groups such as Al-Shabaab and ISCAP highlight a continued capacity to integrate into criminal networks, innovate tactically and exploit technological tools that enable long-range influence and recruitment. Their evolution underscores the widening complexity of the continental security environment. Structural fragilities continue to fuel the crisis. Governance challenges limited territorial presence of the State, weak service delivery and the erosion of institutional legitimacy have enabled extremist actors to present themselves as alternative sources of order and justice in areas where communities feel abandoned or unprotected.

Socio-economic pressures further intensify vulnerabilities. Millions of young Africans face constrained opportunities for employment, education and social mobility, providing fertile ground for extremist recruitment. Groups exploit these frustrations by offering income, identity and belonging in contexts where public institutions struggle to respond. Climate degradation has become an accelerating factor. Recurrent droughts, unpredictable rainfall, competition for land and water, and environmental stress have heightened local tensions. Extremist organizations manipulate these pressures by controlling access to resources and inserting themselves into community mediation processes.

The expansion of illicit economies has strengthened extremist autonomy. Gold smuggling, narcotics trafficking, fuel diversion, maritime crime and kidnapping-for-ransom constitute durable financial channels that weaken states, distort local economies and enable extremist entities to sustain long-term operations. Despite these challenges, 2025 has also been marked by significant progress. The completion of the Five-Year Continental Counter-Terrorism Plan of Action in December 2025 represents a strategic milestone, providing Africa with its first unified framework for prevention, governance, security cooperation, legal harmonization and resilience building.

The African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre (AUCTC) has consolidated its role as a central institution for threat analysis, capacity development and early-warning integration. Its enhanced capabilities have strengthened the continent's ability to anticipate evolving dynamics and support evidence-based policy formulation. Cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations has matured into a more strategic partnership. Joint assessments and harmonized analysis have increased convergence between continental and global perspectives, improved the accuracy of multilateral reporting and reinforced Africa's influence in international counter-terrorism deliberations. Africa's diplomatic voice has gained greater prominence. By promoting governance, development, legitimacy and human security as essential pillars of counter-terrorism, the continent has contributed to rebalancing global discourse and ensuring that durable solutions reflect African priorities and experiences.

Algeria's role as Champion has provided renewed strategic direction. Through advocacy for African ownership, coherence and unity of purpose, there is a real need for responses that strengthen political legitimacy, rebuild state authority and support nationally owned reconciliation processes. Legal developments have progressed, including

the near-finalization of the African Arrest Warrant and the Continental Terrorist List. Once adopted, these instruments will enhance judicial cooperation, streamline sanctions and facilitate coordinated cross-border action.

However, several AU decisions remain pending, limiting the continent's ability to act with speed and coherence. The operationalization of the All Special Fund for Preventing and Combating Terrorism and the activation of the Ministerial Committee on Counter-Terrorism remain essential priorities for ensuring political leadership, predictable financing and institutional accountability. The evolving threat landscape highlights the urgency of enhancing Africa's rapid-response capacities. A specialized counter-terrorism component within the African Standby Force would provide the continent with the ability to intervene quickly, prevent extremist consolidation and stabilize volatile areas before conditions become irreversible.

Prevention must be elevated as a central pillar of Africa's long-term strategy. Sustainable peace requires inclusive governance, effective service delivery, youth empowerment, climate adaptation, community-level reconciliation and socio-economic investment that addresses the root causes exploited by extremist actors.

The strategic perspectives emerging from this analysis call for accelerated implementation of All decisions, strengthened continental institutions, deepened regional cooperation, reinforced AU-UN co-construction and targeted investments in governance and resilience. These orientations form an integrated roadmap for reversing current trajectories.

Africa stands at a moment of profound strategic consequence. The continent has the institutional tools, analytical capacity and strategic clarity required to confront terrorism with coherence and determination. The challenge now lies in translating commitments into action and mobilizing collective will. If unity and purpose prevail, Africa can reverse the advance of extremism and fulfil the aspirations of Agenda 2063. If not, the costs will reverberate across generations.

H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye

President of The Republic of Burundi

AU Champion for the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda

Despite the progress registered in promoting peace, security and stability in Africa, the peace and security landscape in Africa is still characterized by various challenges which are disproportionately affecting the youth, including armed conflicts, political instability, the rise of extremist groups, but also Geopolitical and geostrategic challenges hindering peace, security, stability and regional integration. Currently, given the aspirations of the Generation Z around the continent, the biggest threat to peace and security in Africa is the intersection of youth unemployment, economic marginalization, and political disillusionment, which often fuels social unrest and drive young people towards violent conflicts, complicating peace-building efforts.

This third report of H.E. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi and African Union (AU) Champion for the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, covers activities realized by different key stakeholders during the year 2025 and assesses the progress made towards the implementation of the Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (CFYPS) and its 10-year implementation plan. It also highlights key recommendation for accelerating the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agenda, but also for exploring synergies between YPS and other “Youth Empowerment, Skills and Jobs Programs” across the Continent, including “AU flagship programs” related to sectors such as agriculture (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme - CAADP) and mineral resources (AU Commodity Strategy), whose enhanced youth engagement can significantly contribute to sustaining peace and economic stability, creating more jobs for the youth, and driving accelerated socio-economic transformation and development in Africa.

In fact, during the year 2025 which was dedicated to the theme of “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations”, some progress in advancing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda on the continent in line with the implementation of the framework and its 10-year implementation plan has been registered. Notable areas of progress include: Increase in the number of Member States with National Action Plans on YPS;

- Review and Validation of the Draft Guideline for the Development on NAPs for YPS by the PSC Committee of Experts (CoE);
- Increased Youth Engagement in AU-led Election Observation Missions;
- Enhanced Operationalization of the WiseYouth Network, Youth Mainstreaming in Preventive Diplomacy Missions & Continental Youth Consultation on Mediation and Peace Processes;
- Enhanced Regional Capacity Strengthening of Youth and Youth-led Initiatives;
- Enhanced Frameworks for Youth Engagement in Governance through Regional and Continental Consultations;
- Enhanced Youth Capacity to Engage in Political Processes, Democratic Governance and Pan- African Leadership ;
- Enhanced Role and Capacity Building for Youth in Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding ;
- Enhanced collaboration and partnership with RECs/RMs on effective implementation of the YPS Agenda;
- Enhanced Mainstreaming of Youth Engagement in AU Organs and RECs ;

In addition, notable activities from various stakeholders had been recorded, including a High-Level Side Event on Youth, Peace, and Security on the Margins of the 38th AU Summit ; a Dialogue between the AU Champion on YPS and the Youth of Guinea Bissau held on 16th August 2026 at Amil Cabral University ; the 1310th meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) held on 11th November 2025 on the theme “Migration, Youth, Peace and Security in Africa”; as well as the 4th edition of the Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and security which took place from December 11 to 13, 2025 in Bujumbura (Burundi), under the theme: “Beyond the rhetoric: Youth empowerment and engagement in sustainable Agrifood systems and mineral value chains as a key driver for the continental Agenda on

However, despite the efforts deployed by various actors for the implementation of the Continental Agenda on Youth, Peace and Security (CFYPS) and its ten-year implementation plan, the performance against the objectives set at mid-term of the ten-year implementation plan of the CFYPS remains very low. The main challenges remained the continued deterioration of peace and security in some areas, the rise of geopolitical and geostrategic challenges hindering peace, security, stability and regional integration; the intersection of youth unemployment, economic marginalization, political disillusionment and the increasing demands of “Generation Z” in different parts of the continent; the fragmentation of initiatives among actors involved in YPS Agenda, leading to suboptimal resource utilization; low willingness of Member States to develop NAPs on the Youth, Peace and Security ; Insufficiency of qualified human resources in matters of Youth Peace and Security, mainly at the level of Member States; the limited capacity of national youth councils to effectively fulfill their mandate; Insufficient financial resources allocated to the Youth for Peace Program; the absence of a sustainable financing mechanism for initiatives linked to the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at the national, regional and continental level; and the absence of a monitoring-evaluation continental mechanism for the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at the national, regional and continental level.

For the strengthened and accelerated implementation of the African Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, the following Key recommendations are proposed:

On the acceleration of the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda:

- i. Consideration for the Adoption the Guidelines on the Development of National Action Plan on Youth, Peace and Security by the PSC. The Guidelines which have already been validated by the Committee of Experts will assist in accelerating the development of inclusive and comprehensive youth-centred NAPs, and will further strengthen coherence by the AU, RECs/RMs and other stakeholders in supporting Member States throughout this process.
- ii. Member States to Prioritize NAP Development and Implementation. NAPs remain instrumental in allowing Member States to domesticate the YPS agenda to the national context and further articulate the role of youth in the governance, peace and security structures. As such, the PSC should strengthen advocacy to member states to prioritise and support the development and implementation of the NAPs, ensuring the role of youth in policy and decision making remains central, and providing adequate financial and human resources for the NAPs implementation.
- iii. Strengthen Youth Capacity and Experience in Mediation, Dialogue and Preventive Diplomacy. Despite progress made in mainstreaming the youth role in AU-led peace processes, the first African Youth Consultation convened by the WiseYouth Network noted that youth experiences in mediation, dialogue and preventive diplomacy remains relatively low, particularly in regions such as North and Southern Africa. Therefore, it is imperative for the AU, RECs/RMs and Member States to provide more opportunities and training to youth to engage in these fields at national, regional and continental levels.
- iv. Enhance Youth Leadership Development, Foster Youth Innovation and Digital Participation. All efforts should be made to build youth political leadership pipelines in Member States; to support training, mentorship, and exchange programs; and to expand capacity-building programs to youth at the grassroots level. Furthermore, the AU should consider reviving the Youth Innovation initiative for governance and peace solutions; promote digital tools and AI for youth engagement and conflict prevention; and to link youth innovators directly with AU policy institutions.
- v. AU, RECs/RMs and Member States to Strengthen Implementation of the outcomes of the 3rd & 4th Continental dialogues on Youth, Peace and Security of 2024 and 2025 respectively, convened under the auspices of H.E Evariste Ndayishimiye, the President of the Republic of Burundi and the AU Champion on Youth, Peace and Security. It is imperative for the PSC to consider the implementation of the outcomes of the 3rd Continental Dialogue on YPS, these include; leverage coordination, partnerships and resource mobilization for the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, and the integration of peace education in school curricula.

- vi. Increased Resources and Coordination by the AU, RECs/RMs and Member States for Youth- led initiatives. This is especially critical in supporting social economic enterprises to reduce the rates of unemployment among the youth demography; strengthening youth-led initiatives and innovation; secure more funding for the Citizen and Youth Engagement Strategy implementation; and strengthening coordination on youth initiatives.

On synergies between the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda and other “AU flagship programs” related to “Youth Empowerment, Skills and Jobs”, Youth engagement in sectors such as agriculture (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme - CAADP) and mineral resources (AU Commodity Strategy):

- Creating a generation of engaged and empowered Youth as a strategic objective and a foundational element for achieving all of the continental’s ambitions and aspirations, as per the second Ten-year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 (2024-2033).
- Accelerating youth empowerment efforts through promoting initiatives that aim (1) to Reduce youth unemployment rate, but also (2) to increase the proportion of youth-owned business, by (i) Developing and implementing programs aimed to provide technical and financial support to young entrepreneurs, such as credit facilities, mentorships and leadership training; and (ii) Enacting and enforcing policies to help young people to set up businesses.
- Leveraging the Kampala Declaration on “Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa” and the “AU Commodities Strategy” for jobs creation and youth empowerment in sustainable Agrifood systems and the mineral value chains.
- Promoting effective youth empowerment and engagement in sustainable Agrifood systems and mineral value chains.
- Establishing, at the level of all Member States, Youth Support Programs for socio-economic empowerment through entrepreneurship, innovation and more jobs creation to prevent conflicts.
- Fostering and strengthening Partnerships between youth, Governments, regional organizations (RECs/RMs), and International Development Partners to promote Peace, Security, and Sustainable Development in Africa.

H.E. Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa

President of The Republic of South Africa

African Union Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response
Champion

Major Achievements of 2026

1. The Africa Epidemic Fund (AfEF) **[Assembly/AU/Dec.835(XXXV)]** has begun operations and secured USD 38.7 million in 2025.
2. The Director General of Africa CDC lifted the Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS) for Mpox on 22 January 2026- this was a result of the region responding effectively to the terms of the PHECS and the strong operational support from the Incident Management Support Team, co-led by the Africa CDC and the World Health Organisation
3. The Health Workforce Task Team **[(Assembly/AU/Dec. 816(XXXV))]**, continues to drive a transformative health workforce development agenda, including through the platforms of the African Epidemic Service, the Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Fellowship and the Kofi Annan Global Health Leadership Program
4. Through the Platform for Harmonised Africa Health Products Manufacturing (PHAHM) **[Assembly/AU/Dec. 866-902(XXXVII)]**, the AU continues to strengthen its regional manufacturing agenda. In 2025, more than USD 4 billion dollars had accrued in investments into regional manufacturing
5. The Pandemic Treaty was adopted at the 77th World Health Assembly- the African Union is to be commended for negotiating with one voice under the Common Africa Position. The crucial Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) annex still needs to be negotiated and adopted.

Recommendations to the 39th African Union Assembly of the Heads of State and Government

The Africa CDC's new Africa Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda is inextricably dependent on the Global Health Architecture and its fitness to deliver on pandemic preparedness and response as well as global health security through universal health coverage. As the world contemplates some sweeping global institutional and financing reforms, it will be imperative for the African Union to once again engage these shifts as a united force. The Champion posits the following recommendations, which are elaborated in his comprehensive report:

Global Health Policy and Diplomacy:

- Strengthen the Common Africa Position to ensure the Africa Group can negotiate and adopt a Pathogen Access and Benefits Sharing Annex, firmly rooted in the principles of equity, fairness, and transparency.
- Support the implementation of the Global Health Diplomacy Fellowship to build a cadre of AU skilled diplomats who can effectively represent the continent in global health negotiations- **including the Global Health Architecture reforms**- with a loop feedback to the Heads of state and Government.

Preparedness and Response coordination platform:

- Africa CDC and WHO Afro should consolidate preparedness and epidemics response into a continental platform using the IMST model, anchored on the "4 Ones" principle.

Financing sovereignty:

- The African Union should reaffirm PPPR as a strategic investment through the Africa Epidemic Fund, Pandemic Fund instruments, and domestic resources.

Regionalised Manufacturing and Local Production

- Heads of State and Government to reaffirm regionalised manufacturing as a core pillar of Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response and of the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty Agenda

H.E. Hakainde Hichilema

President of The Republic of Zambia

AU Champion on Ending Child Marriage

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

This is a report by H.E. President Hakainde Hichilema, AU Presidential Champion on Ending Child Marriages in Africa. Africa accounts for 1 in 3 child marriages globally; with the exponential population growth, the prevalence of child marriage projected to reach nearly 50 percent of the world's child brides by 2050. Progress to ending child marriages must be 20 times faster to meet the SDG target of ending child marriage by 2030. Over 30 million girls in Africa are married before 18 years, with highest prevalence being in West and Central Africa, and the Sahel.

2. LEADING FROM THE FRONT: ZAMBIA'S PROGRESS AS PRESIDENTIAL CHAMPION

- i. Reduced child marriage prevalence from 29 percent (2018) to 23.9 percent (2024).
- ii. Legal reforms: Enacted and reviewed some laws to curb child marriages: the Children's Code Act (2022), the Marriage Amendment Act (2023), the Matrimonial Causes Act (2024), all prohibit child marriage.
- iii. Policy actions: Instituted a Free Education Policy, School Re-entry Policy for adolescent mothers, National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage (2026–2030) and the development of the Male Engagement Strategy has commenced.
- iv. Cross-sector coordination: This is continuously done with traditional leaders, religious leaders, civil society, and international partners.

3. STRATEGIC PATHWAYS FOR AU MEMBER STATES IN ENDING CHILD MARRIAGES

- i. Adopt a Whole-of-Society Approach: Engage all sectors: government, traditional/religious leaders, civil society, private sector, media, youth, and survivors.
- ii. Strengthen and Harmonize Laws: Set minimum marriage age at 18 years without exceptions. Align statutory, customary, and religious laws.
- iii. Ensure Accountability and Enforcement: Establish child rights observatories, train judiciary and law enforcement staff, and create reporting mechanisms.
- iv. Invest in Girls' Education and Economic Empowerment: Increase education funding to at least 4 to 6 percent of GDP. Scale up cash transfer programmes, vocational training, and scholarships for girls.
- v. Integrate Child Marriage into Climate and Humanitarian Action: Include child protection in climate adaptation and humanitarian response plans.
- vi. Leverage Technology for Prevention and Reporting: Deploy digital tools for awareness, real-time reporting, age verification, and case management.
- vii. Mobilise Domestic Resources: Develop and fund costed national action plans to ensure sustainable financing.
- viii. Strengthen Regional Collaboration: Work through Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to harmonise laws, share data, and coordinate cross-border responses.
- ix. Amplify Survivor Voices and Engage Men & Boys: Include survivors in policy design. Promote male engagement in ending harmful practices.
- x. Invest in Data and Research: Fund real-time monitoring, predictive analytics, and studies on the economic cost of child marriage.

4. CONCLUSION

Ending child marriage requires political courage, sustained domestic investment, and collective action. AU Member States must move beyond policy statements to implementation, enforcement, and accountability, ensuring every girl can live free, educated, and empowered. Achieving lasting change requires a transformative approach that not only mobilises all segments of society but also places survivors' voices and leadership at the forefront. Sustainable progress can be realised when domestic resources are harnessed to empower survivors as agents of change working also with traditional and religious leaders within their communities.

H.E. Hakainde Hichilema

President of The Republic of Zambia

AU Champion on Eliminating Cholera

Cholera, although preventable, remains one of Africa's most persistent public health threats, reflecting deep structural inequities in access to safe water, sanitation, and resilient health systems. Between January 2022 and December 2025, Africa recorded over 320,000 suspected and confirmed cholera cases and more than 6,800 deaths across 26 Member States, marking a resurgence not seen in over a decade. Although improvements in case management have stabilized case fatality rates (CFRs) toward the end of 2025, incidence remains unacceptably high.

The Southern African region has been the epicentre, accounting for nearly 60 percent of the continental burden. This disproportionate impact is driven by a convergence of climate shocks (notably Cyclone Freddy and the 2024/25 El Niño-related drought), aging and inadequate WASH infrastructure, rapid unplanned urbanization, and high levels of cross-border population mobility. The Regional Case Fatality Rate (CFR), while improving from peaks above 2.5 percent in 2022–2023, remains almost double the global target of less than 1 percent, signaling late health-seeking behavior and persistent system gaps.

For Zambia, the 2022–2025 period reflects a transition from acute crisis to more controlled outbreak management. Major nationwide outbreaks in 2022–2023 have given way to smaller, localized, and recurrent clusters, particularly in peri-urban Lusaka, northern fishing communities, and border districts. Importantly, Zambia has reduced its national CFR from 3.5 percent in 2022 to approximately 1.5–1.8 percent in 2025, largely through decentralized case management, expansion of community oral rehydration points, improved surveillance, and targeted oral cholera vaccination campaigns. However, transmission persists due to chronic sanitation deficits, reliance on unsafe water sources, and the global shortage of oral cholera vaccines, which has forced the adoption of single-dose strategies with limited duration of protection.

The report concludes that emergency response alone is unsustainable. Cholera in Africa, and in Zambia specifically, is no longer merely a health emergency but a development, climate, and equity challenge. Without decisive structural investments, countries will remain trapped in a costly cycle of seasonal outbreaks.

Key Strategic Recommendations

1. Establish a Continental WASH Investment Mechanism

The African Union should champion a dedicated continental fund for long-term WASH infrastructure in cholera hotspots, particularly peri-urban and informal settlements.

2. Accelerate Regional Oral Cholera Vaccine Manufacturing

Under the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), Africa must build self-reliance in OCV production to address chronic global supply constraints.

3. Institutionalize Cross-Border Surveillance and Response

Informal coordination mechanisms should be formalized into binding regional health protocols to enable joint surveillance, data sharing, and synchronized vaccination along borders.

4. Integrate Cholera Prevention into Climate Adaptation Planning

Cholera prevention should be embedded within National Climate Adaptation Plans, recognizing water security as a core pillar of health security.

Zambia reaffirms its commitment to the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC) Roadmap to 2030 and calls for strengthened AU solidarity to move from cholera control to elimination across the continent.

H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto

President of the Republic of Kenya

AU Champion on Institutional Reform

A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Assembly of the African Union (AU) at its 38th Ordinary Session, February 2025 adopted Decision 920 on AU Institutional Reforms in which it outlined eight (8) key reform areas to be undertaken under the leadership of His Excellency President William Samoei Ruto, PhD., C.G.H., Champion for AU institutional reforms, and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission through active consultations.
2. In discharge of his mandate, H.E. the Champion has engaged widely with AU Stakeholders to reinforce inclusivity, provide political guidance, and cultivate consensus and the reform process. H.E. the Champion held extensive consultations with the Chairperson AUC, the AU High Representative on Financing the Union; the High-Level Panel of Experts on African Governance, Peace and Security to review African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), and African Governance Architecture (AGA); and the Ad-hoc Oversight Committee of ten Heads of State and Government on AU.

B. EIGHT KEY PRIORITY AREAS

3. Political direction and insights from these engagements, culminated into the Champion's status Report with tangible recommendations on eight (8) key priority areas as follows:
 - i. **Restructuring of AU Organs, agencies and offices:** The Assembly directed the PRC with the support of the African Union Commission (AUC), to conclude its review and consideration of the report on the restructuring of the 42 assessed AU Organs, institutions, and offices entities and submit a report to the Executive Council. The initial phase involved a review of 42 entities, with the consultant submitting his report in 2023. Once the report was accepted by the Commission, it was submitted to the PRC for consideration. The PRC has so far considered 37 of the structures reviewed by the Consultant and the rest are under consideration. The Report of the PRC will be presented to the Executive Council during its ordinary session in February, 2026.
 - ii. **Division of Labour:** The first phase of the Division of Labour framework, which was restricted to Trade, Political Affairs, Peace and Security was finalized and adopted in 2021. It is recommended that all entities involved to enhance their efforts to ensure the finalization of the framework for adoption by the Assembly at its 39th Ordinary Session in February, 2026.
 - iii. **Streamlining the Agenda of the Summit:** The AUC was directed to submit concrete proposals in view of implementing Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.635 (XXVII). It is proposed that a simplified format aligned with Decision 635: three strategic items, a short opening, closed sessions, and a 1.5-day Summit that would end with a Communique, thus improving efficiency, focus and decision-making.
 - iv. **Categorization of Assembly Decisions:** The Assembly directed the Commission to initiate the categorization of Assembly and Executive Council decisions as per Decision Assembly/AU/Dec. 687(XXX) of January, 2018. It is recommended to have two categories of decisions: Category 1: Binding Decisions: Decisions that have followed due legal and procedural processes and those that carry explicit implementation obligations for Member States. These decisions are legally enforceable and require full compliance – to be classified as Decisions; Category 2: Non-Binding Decisions: Decisions that although not legally binding, serve as policy guidance to promote shared values and policy coherence among Member States – to be classified as Resolutions or Declarations.

- v. **Financing the Union:** Recommends that strict adherence to the “Golden Rules” of budgeting, consideration for adopting a baseline of USD\$250 million for 2027 assessed contributions and progressively increasing assessments over ten years. Additionally, the implementation of the 0.2% import levy in line with the Johannesburg and Kigali Decisions on Financing the Union. It is further recommended that there is need to increase of the Fund from USD\$400 million to USD\$1 billion, diversifying contributions, and engaging African financial institutions and private sector partners. Further recommended renewed engagement on implementing UN Security Council Resolution 2719 on financing AU-led peace operations.
- vi. **Revitalisation of Peace and Security Frameworks:** In line with Decision 920, H.E. the Champion in consultation with the AUC Chairperson constituted the High-Level Panel of Eminent Experts. The Panel reviewed both the APSA and AGA frameworks at a retreat in Nairobi on September, 2025. The review revealed that both APSA and AGA are structurally sound and aligned to the objectives of the AU Constitutive Act. The Panel recommends for the integration of APSA and AGA into a single, coherent framework which will eliminate institutional silos, strengthen coherence, and ensure that governance deficits and security challenges are addressed together.
- vii. **Operationalisation of the Court of Justice of the African Union:** It was proposed that the AU Commission should submit to the PRC a report on the Structure and Budget for the Operationalization of the African Court of Justice, without delay in line with Decision 920. The PRC to consider and present recommendations on the Structure and budget for the African Court to the Executive Council at its ordinary session in February, 2026.
- viii. **Revamping the Pan-African Parliament:** To reinvigorate PAP, Decision 920 appealed to member states to ratify the 2014 Malabo Protocol, which aims at providing PAP with limited legislative powers, enabling it to make model laws in the interest of the whole continent, at the invitation of the Assembly. It is recommended that the Bureau of PAP and all PAP Members of Parliament with the support of the AUC to intensify sensitization and outreach to Member States on the ratification of the Malabo Protocol.

C. CONCLUSION

4. It is worth noting that this report was supposed to be presented at the initially scheduled Special Summit on AU Reforms in Luanda, Angola on 26th November, 2025. However, the Summit was postponed and instead an Ad-hoc Oversight Committee held in an open format was convened in lieu of the Summit on 25th November, 2025 in Luanda. H.E. the Champion presented the Report was presented to the Ad-hoc and agreed that Member States submit their written input for consideration to ensure that the report reflects the diversity of views and priorities across the Union. **This is, therefore, a preliminary report; a final report will be shared once input from Member States are received and incorporated.**

H.E. Alassane Dramane Ouattara

President of The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

AU Champion on the Follow-up of the Implementation of African Union Agenda 2063

The Champion Report 2026 is an evidence-based assessment of Africa's performance over the first two years (2024–2025) of Agenda 2063's Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP). It draws on the preliminary findings of the first continental biennial report by the Agenda 2063 Technical Working Group, bringing together contributions from 41 Member States, covering a range of regional, socio-economic and governance contexts.

The report highlights key trends across the seven Moonshots, identifying enabling factors and cross-cutting challenges, as well as emerging issues likely to influence the continent's progress towards achieving the 2033 goals.

The Champion Report serves as a platform for policy dialogue, strategic guidance and renewed commitment towards accelerating implementation. It provides a strategic tool for strengthening country-level ownership, mobilising domestic resources and leveraging Africa's growing global influence.

Implementation momentum

Implementation momentum gained traction over the 2024–2025 period. As a result, the institutional architecture was strengthened through improved coordination as well as clarified and reinforced responsibilities at all levels. In addition, outreach and stakeholder mobilisation helped to strengthen ownership of the Second Ten-Year Plan, albeit to a limited extent in some countries. In a similar vein, the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations on the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) gained new impetus, reaffirming the need for a unified development cooperation architecture.

As part of efforts to finance Agenda 2063, the Agenda 2063 Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM) Strategy has been approved and the Agenda 2063 Development Fund is in the process of being adopted by the African Union Organs. Alongside these efforts, operational tools for the follow-up and evaluation framework have been developed to improve data collection and quality reporting. In the same vein, capacity-building and Member State reporting support activities using Artificial Intelligence have been stepped up.

Status of Moonshots

On Moonshot 1 (A prosperous and inclusive Africa), promising results were recorded in terms of improving the living conditions of the people. Access to electricity increased from 61.8% in 2023 to 69% in 2025, compared to a target of 65.4%. Access to drinking water also increased from 61.5% in 2023 to 67.5%, compared to a target of 68.2%. The proportion of the population living below the poverty line fell from 41% in 2023 to 32% in 2025.

Nevertheless, the GDP per capita of US\$1,968 achieved in 2025 remains below the target value of US\$2,176. Although high (5.5% in 2025), the growth rate remains below the Moonshot 1 target of 7.5%.

On Moonshot 2 and 3, involving the digitisation of public services and governance, the Continent improved by 41% and trust in oversight institutions rose to 53% reflecting a gradual improvement in administrative efficiency and accountability.

Internet penetration reached 66% in 2025, exceeding the target, thereby supporting market integration, regional value chain development and digital inclusion.

Progress was also recorded in the adoption of African mechanisms for mediation and peaceful conflict resolution, confirming the ownership of African solutions.

On Moonshot 4, Africa's peace and security situation remains complex, with both progress and challenges. While the Continent saw notable advances towards stability, a number of conflicts and security threats persist.

On Moonshot 6, the percentage of preschool-aged children attending nursery school declined to 43% in 2025 from 49% in 2023, while maternal mortality worsened, rising from 176.7 to 187.6 deaths per 100,000 live births over the same period. Meanwhile, youth unemployment and underemployment persist, hampering empowerment and the realisation of the demographic dividend.

Status of flagship projects

Under the Second Implementation Plan (2024–2033), a number of flagship projects have been refocused and aligned with emerging continental priorities and global realities. Two new projects, namely the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and Reparations for Transatlantic Slavery, Colonisation and Apartheid, were added to the existing projects. As a result, the number of flagship projects now stands at 18.

Significant progress has also been made on a number of flagship projects, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the African Integrated Rail Network (AIRN), the Great Museum of Africa (GMA) and Africa's Digital Transformation.

Key challenges

Notwithstanding these achievements, implementation continues to face structural, institutional, and contextual challenges.

This includes a lack of ownership of the Second Plan on the part of the general public, ongoing conflicts, insufficient funding, difficulties in mobilising domestic and external resources, a lack of reliable and disaggregated statistical data, fragmented institutional coordination mechanisms, and human capital development challenges.

Recommendations

Viewed in the light of accelerating the implementation of the Second Ten-Year Plan, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Strengthening national mechanisms for ownership, implementation and performance-based accountability;
2. Operationalising the 2063 Agenda financing instruments, particularly the creation of a special fund of US\$5 million, through voluntary contributions and support from African financial institutions, for the deployment of strategic tools;
3. Investing in statistical data production and digital monitoring systems;
4. Strengthening institutional coordination, partnerships and implementation capacity, particularly at the local level;
5. Aligning partnerships under the 'One Framework, Two Agendas' approach to maximise the impact of public policies; and
6. Accelerating the implementation of moonshots and flagship projects, under the impetus of strong and accountable political leadership.

H.E. John Dramani Mahama

President of The Republic of Ghana

AU Champion on Gender and Development Issues in Africa

1. This report presents Ghana's Seventh Annual Report as African Union Champion on Gender and Development, outlining progress achieved in 2025 toward advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) across Africa, in line with Agenda 2063 and global commitments.
2. The reporting period coincided with major milestones, including the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, the 25th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and Africa's enhanced engagement through South Africa's G-20 Presidency.
3. A key achievement was the adoption of the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG). The Convention establishes a comprehensive framework for prevention, protection, and survivor support. Ghana became the seventh AU Member State to sign the Convention and urges accelerated signature and ratification to enable its entry into force.
4. At the national level, Ghana convened its first National Men's Conference on Positive Masculinity, repositioning men and boys as partners in ending gender-based violence and addressing harmful social norms.
5. Progress in women's leadership was evident across Africa, including the election of women Heads of State and increased parliamentary representation. In Ghana, the passage and operationalisation of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equity) Act, 2024 (Act 1121) marked a historic milestone toward inclusive governance.
6. Africa's participation in the G-20 Empowerment of Women's Working Group ensured strong gender commitments in the G-20 Leaders' Declaration, while economic empowerment efforts were reinforced through the mid-term review of the Second African Women's Decade (2020–2030) and implementation of initiatives such as WYFEI 2030.
7. Advocacy efforts led to progress in the ratification of the Maputo Protocol, notably by the Central African Republic. Preparations for CSW70 culminated in the adoption of a Common African Position focused on access to justice and legal reform.
8. In conclusion, 2025 marked a year of consolidation and leadership. As AU Gender Champion, Ghana reaffirms its commitment to accelerating progress toward an Africa where women and girls are safe, empowered, and able to reach their full potential, in line with Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou

Former President of The Republic of Niger

AU Champion on AfCFTA Implementation

In the course of 2025, His Excellency Mr ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU, former President of Niger, carried out several activities in his capacity as the African Union Champion on the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The main activities are as follows:

1. 38th Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 16 and 17 February 2025
2. Africa CEO Forum, 12th Edition, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 12 and 13 May 2025, under the theme Can a New Deal Between State and Private Sector Deliver the Continent a Winning Hand?
3. African Forum on Investment and Trade in Algiers (Algeria), 10–13 May 2025 (online contributions)
4. 32nd Annual AFREXIMBANK Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, 25–27 June 2025
5. 7th African Union mid-year coordination meeting, 13 July 2025, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
6. AfriCaribbean Forum, Saint-George's, Grenada, 27–29 July 2025, under the theme Resilience and Transformation: Enhancing Africa-Caribbean Cooperation in an Era of Global Uncertainty
7. 4th Intra-African Trade Fair, Algiers, Algeria, 6–10 September 2025
8. AFREXIMBANK handover ceremony, Cairo, Egypt, October 2025
9. African Union Infrastructure Summit, 28–31 October 2025, Luanda, Angola. Theme: Capital, Corridors and Trade: Investing in Infrastructure for the AfCFTA and Shared Prosperity

The participation of the Champion on AfCFTA ensured that the following relevant messages were passed on:

- Commitment and leadership for African integration, particularly the acceleration of the implementation of Agenda 2063
- Progress made in the process of implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)
- Strengthening of public-private dialogue and partnerships
- Encouragement of South-South cooperation and strengthening of economic and trade relations between Africa and the Caribbean for resilience and transformation
- Mobilisation of resources for the development of infrastructure in order to ensure the effective free movement of goods, services, and persons
- Promotion of intra-African investment, industrialisation, and value chains for the Africa we want
- Mobilisation of domestic and external resources, particularly through the improvement in the rates of fiscal pressure, strengthening of pan-African financial institutions and the reform of the international financial architecture; and
- Visibility of Africa on the global scene as a strategic stakeholder in the global economic, trade, and infrastructure arena.

An active commitment was made in 2025 by H.E. Issoufou Mahamadou at various fora and summits. This testifies to his determination to positively galvanise the integration, cooperation and economic development of the continent. His actions strengthen the position of Africa on the international scene, encourage innovative partnerships, and support the implementation of the AfCFTA, which is an essential lever for a more prosperous, resilient, and inclusive future for the continent.

H.E. Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno

President of The Republic of Chad

AU Champion on the Fight Against Peste Des Petits Ruminants (PPR) 2025

In the course of the year, the Republic of Chad resolutely pursued the implementation of its national eradication programme for peste des petits ruminants (PPR), thereby reaffirming its commitment to actively contribute to the continental objective of eradicating this disease by 2030, in line with Agenda 2063 and the Kampala Declaration. The country formalised its strategic and institutional framework through the consolidation of the National PPR Control and Eradication Strategy, reviewed in October 2025. In this regard, particular attention was paid to the strengthening of the national epidemiological surveillance system through the training and equipping of 150 heads of veterinary posts on the early alarm tool, diagnosis, and household management.

Chad has also intensified **vaccination campaigns** primarily targeting pastoral and transhumant zones. These activities ensured the protection of **16 994 707 small ruminants** for 2025, thereby significantly reducing the risk of the spread of the disease and contributing to the protection of the livelihoods of herders.

Community awareness and mobilisation were the focus of the interventions, thereby facilitating the acceptance of vaccination and recommended health practices by herders. Information campaigns were conducted in the main livestock breeding areas in order to encourage prevention and notification.

Finally, Chad strengthened **regional and international cooperation** by participating in several continental meetings on the eradication of PPR, including the participation of the Minister in charge of Livestock at the official launch of the Pan-African Programme on the Eradication of Peste de Petits Ruminants held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 3 February 2025. The regional workshop on the validation of the PPR eradication plan for the Central African sub-region was held from 5 to 7 November 2025, while the PPR Coordinator for the Central African zone took office at the Headquarters of the Regional Animal Health Centre for the Central African Zone in N'Djamena, Chad.

Chad also hosted a transboundary vaccination campaign planning meeting with Niger and Burkina Faso for countries of the Sahel Regional Pastoralism Support Project zone (PRAPS 2) from 3 to 5 November 2025 in N'Djamena.

Thus, these meetings witnessed the commitment of the government through the presence of the Minister in charge of Livestock and Animal Production to chair the official opening of these meetings.

H.E. John Dramani Mahama

President of The Republic of Ghana

AU Champion on Reparations

Overview

This report, submitted by **H.E. John Dramani Mahama**, President of the Republic of Ghana and the **African Union Champion on Reparations**, details the historic progress made during the 2025 Year of Reparations. It documents the transition of reparatory justice from a moral aspiration to a structured institutional reality within the African Union (AU) framework over the reporting period.

Key Institutional Achievements

The period saw the establishment of three (3) foundational mechanisms to guide the continent's legal and technical approach to reparations:

- i) **AU Coordination Team on Reparations (AU-CTR):** Led by the Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO), this team ensures inter-departmental coherence and prevents siloed implementation;
- ii) **Committee of Experts on Reparations (AU-CER):** A technical backbone structured across five specialised working groups addressing:
 - a) Global Governance and Structural Reparations - Focusing on institutional reform, sovereignty restoration and structural economic reorientation;
 - b) Economic, Financial and Environmental Reparations - Addressing debt relief, resource extraction justice, environmental remediation and financial restitution frameworks;
 - c) Cultural, Scientific and Educational Reparations - Recovering stolen heritage, restoring knowledge systems and reorienting education toward African-centred curricula; and
 - d) Advocacy, Communication, Technology, and Knowledge Production - Ensuring global visibility, digital justice, and reframing of historical narratives.
- iii) **Reference Group of Legal Experts (AU-LER):** Tasked with aligning reparations frameworks with international law while developing novel legal instruments tailored to the African context.

Strategic Mainstreaming and Partnerships

- i) **Flagship Status:** Reparations has been proposed as a Flagship Project of Agenda 2063, ensuring its integration into the Union's long-term development framework;
- ii) **AU-CARICOM Alliance:** The partnership was solidified through the Addis Ababa Declaration (September 2025), creating a unified transcontinental front between Africa and the Caribbean; and
- iii) **Cultural Restitution:** The Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHSD) advanced the AU Model Law on Cultural Restitution to facilitate the recovery of stolen heritage.

Existing Gaps and Challenges

Despite significant momentum and traction garnered over the past year, the report identifies critical barriers to full operationalisation, as follows:

- i) **Human Resource Shortages:** Staffing levels at CIDO are currently insufficient to manage the mandate's scale due to recent resignations and medical leaves;
- ii) **Funding Gaps:** While initial budgets were approved, current allocations are inadequate for sustained implementation beyond inception activities; and
- iii) **Uneven National Engagement:** Member State participation remains inconsistent, necessitating more mandatory reporting and national-level strategies.

Strategic Recommendations for 2026 and Beyond

- i) **Institutional Strengthening:** Establish a dedicated Reparations Division within CIDO and fully fund the AU-CER and AU-LER by the end of the first quarter of 2026.
- ii) **UN General Assembly Resolution (UNGA):** Member States are urged to support a UNGA Resolution to be tabled by the AU Champion seeking formal recognition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade as a crime against humanity.
- iii) **National Frameworks:** Encourage Member States to establish National Reparations Commissions and conduct historical audits of colonial injustices by the end of 2026.
- iv) **Digital Justice:** Launch a Digital Justice Initiative to create a continental repository of historical narratives and use AI to identify stolen cultural heritage.

AU Theme of the Decade

With the extension of the theme for a decade, a natural outshoot of our quest for justice through reparations would be to seek global support and engagement on this.

Accordingly, consistent with the AU Assembly's decisions 884 and 934, on reparative justice and the Accra Declaration on Reparations, Ghana, in its vanguard role on this issue, intends to table a draft resolution at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to seek the formal and universal recognition of the **Transatlantic Slave Trade and Slavery as the Worst Crime Against Humanity**. Africans do not only seek recognition but a global legal framework that paves the way for healing, accountability and restorative justice.

The unflinching fraternal support and co-sponsorship of all AU Member States for this resolution is imperative. By standing together at the UNGA, we will signal to the world that Africa will no longer allow the scale of its historical suffering to be minimised.

Conclusion

Overall, the 2025 Year of Reparations has successfully transformed collective consciousness. The focus now shifts to an **AU Decade of Reparations** to ensure this agenda endures and delivers tangible justice for Africans and the Diaspora.

H.E. Bola Ahmed Tinubu

President of The Federal Republic of Nigeria

AU Champion on Human Resources for Health and Community Health Delivery Partnership

H.E. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, AU Champion for Human Resources for Health and Community Health Delivery Partnership, presents this report covering February-December 2025. Mandated by Assembly/AU/Dec.877(XXXVII), the Championship has used high-level political leadership to turn continental commitments on health security, Primary Health Care (PHC), and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) into measurable progress. This has been achieved by strengthening the health workforce and community health systems. These areas are core enablers of Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPPR).

Building on reforms advanced by H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa (African Union (AU) Champion for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR)), President Tinubu created a tightly aligned political and technical platform. This platform places Human Resources for Health (HRH) - health workforce, and Community Health Workers (CHWs), who provide primary healthcare at the community level, at the center of Africa's health security architecture. Key continental outputs completed in 2025 include:

1. The first comprehensive continental Health Workforce Baseline Review for all AU Member States, providing a single evidence base for workforce planning, financing, and investment decisions.
2. A Continental Health Workforce Investment Case quantifying economic returns and the high cost of inaction.
3. A Continental Community Health Landscape Survey led by Africa CDC in collaboration with UNICEF, a Continental CHWs Investment Case, and a Community Health Scorecard. These tools drive political accountability, professionalization, sustainable financing, and large-scale CHW deployment.

Nigeria's national experience has shaped and validated these continental tools. Nigeria offered practical lessons: rapid scale-up of community health cadres, strengthened training, integration of digital workforce tools, targeted financing, and implementation of a national policy on health workforce migration. These actions improved PHC access and emergency responsiveness and served as an operational blueprint across Member States. Nigeria's model showed that high-level political commitment, combined with pragmatic reforms, accelerates workforce readiness and community resilience.

Under President Tinubu's stewardship, the AU reaffirmed its commitment to deploy 2 million community health workers (CHWs) by 2030. It also pledged to ensure a fit-for-purpose, equitably distributed, and sustainably financed health workforce. The Championship's achievements have closed critical evidence gaps, mobilized senior political attention, and produced operational instruments. These tools enable Member States and partners to translate commitments into financed, accountable action.

This report calls for urgent and decisive action from Heads of State and Government, finance ministers, development partners, and private sector actors. To translate the progress of 2025 into lasting impact, the report recommends first embedding HRH and community health financing in national budgets and regional financing instruments to ensure sustainable domestic ownership. Second, developing and implementing the continental acceleration framework and scorecard to meet the goal of deploying 2 million CHWs by 2030. Third, empowering the AU Health Workforce Task Team (HWTT) and mandating that the Africa CDC develop and apply continental standards for health professional education and training, while encouraging mutual recognition of qualifications. By taking these concrete steps, beginning with proven national successes, the African Union can secure resilient health systems in line with the Africa Health Security and Sovereignty (AHSS) Agenda and Agenda 2063.

H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto

President of The Republic of Kenya

AU Champion on Local Manufacturing of Medical Products

Africa remains the fastest-growing pharmaceutical market in the world, yet it continues to import the majority of vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, and active pharmaceutical ingredients (API). If Africa captured even 50% of its own medicine and API production by 2030, it could retain and onshore more than USD 20 billion annually of value that currently flows out of the continent. In response, the Assembly mandated Africa CDC to expand from vaccines to the full spectrum of health product manufacturing; appointed the AU Champion; and directed the establishment of the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM) as the core market instrument to anchor demand on the continent.

This report of Local Manufacturing of Health Products in Africa, one of the five pillars of Africa's Health Security and Sovereignty, submitted to the 39th Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government is presented by His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto on his role as the AU champion of local manufacturing of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical products.

At its 39th Ordinary Session in October 2022 (EX.CL/Dec.1126–1142(XXXIX)), the Executive Council approved the establishment of the Partnership for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), with the objective of increasing vaccine manufacturing on the continent from 1% to at least 60% by 2040. Building on this progress, the Assembly at its 37th Session in February 2024 adopted three landmark decisions (AU/Dec.877(XXXVII)):

- Expanded the mandate of Africa CDC to lead the manufacturing agenda for pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, and medical devices, in addition to vaccines;
- Mandated Africa CDC to establish and operate the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM) as a decisive step to improve access and support African manufacturing;
- Appointed H.E. President William Samoei Ruto as AU Champion for Local Manufacturing

This report demonstrates that the central challenge in achieving the continental objective is no longer political commitment—it is execution. Africa cannot manufacture at scale without predictable markets, financing aligned to industrial timelines, access to know-how and intellectual property, and regulatory convergence that enables timely market entry.

This report reflects implementation of the Assembly Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec.877(XXXVII)) and confirms the following division of labour per organizational mandates with overall coordination by Africa CDC.

Function	Lead Institution	Core Responsibility
Political Mobilization	AU Champion & Africa CDC	Secure national adoption & financing commitments
Technical Leadership	Africa CDC	PHAHM, APPM, overall coordination & strategy
Regulatory	AMA	Harmonization, reliance pathways & streamlined approvals
Finance	AfDB / Afreximbank	Financing, patient capital, blended instruments, risk-sharing
Trade	AfCFTA	Harmonized rules & tariff alignment

These efforts are complemented by a wide ecosystem of partners—including the EU/EC, CEPI, Gavi, WHO, Unitaids, the International Vaccine Institute, the World Bank, and the G20 High-Level Implementation Panel. Leadership from several AU Member States through national investments and the convening of international forums on local manufacturing is anchoring the agenda politically, mobilising global partners, and accelerating implementation at both national and continental levels. Collectively, this work is creating the conditions for **market capture**, which enables **industrial scale**, and ultimately delivers health sovereignty.

Progress to Date

Good progress is being made toward the continental target as demonstrated by a few of the accomplishments thus far.

Africa's manufacturing base is expanding

- 574 health product manufacturers registered with their NRAs mapped across Africa;
- More than 27 vaccine manufacturing initiatives advancing, with at least 8 products expected to reach WHO PQ or market by 2030;
- A growing pipeline of bed nets, diagnostics, and therapeutics manufactured on the continent;
- More than 20 technology transfer projects are underway

Pooled procurement becomes executable

- Africa CDC operationalised the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM) as a continental purchasing platform aligned with national priorities.
- Pooled procurement of 10 SRMNCH products across 10 pilot countries, with the next procurement cycle scheduled for early 2026; and procurement pipelines were established, to enable countries to aggregate demand, reduce price dispersion, and shorten delivery timelines.
- Procurement governance frameworks clarified roles between Africa CDC, Member States, and partners—preserving sovereignty while capturing scale

Regulatory capabilities, Workforce and capabilities

- Nine National Regulatory Authorities achieving WHO Maturity Level 3, strengthened National Quality Control Laboratories (including South Africa, Rwanda, and Senegal), and AMA operationalisation underway with its first Director-General appointed;
- The **operationalisation of the African Medicines Agency (AMA)** in October 2025, preceded by the appointment of the first Director General in June 2025, represents a major continental milestone, providing the institutional anchor for regulatory harmonisation, convergence, and reliance across AU Member States
- Regional Capacity and Capability Networks (RCCNs) established to contribute to the building of a future workforce of 9,000–14,000 skilled professionals in biomanufacturing;

Unprecedented financing and political will

- More than USD 10 billion mobilised for African health product manufacturing; including
 - Gavi's African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA), USD 1.2 billion
 - Afreximbank's USD 2 billion pledge to finance African health product manufacturing.
 - A joint European Union (Team Europe Initiative) and Gates Foundation partnership, mobilising USD 1 billion to support health product manufacturing across the continent.
 - The African Development Bank (AfDB) launched a USD 6 billion initiative to transform Africa's health sector, with a specific focus on developing local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and infrastructure
 - Several additional financing including from EU Member States, the U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC) among others.
- These mechanisms shifted manufacturing from aspirational policy to bankable pipelines, reducing investor uncertainty and supporting sustainable scale-up.
- Sustained political momentum and partner engagement.

Table – Progress indicators (2022 → 2025)

Indicator	2022	2025	Change (%)	Source
Continental manufacturing initiatives mapped	8	More than 27	+237 %	Annual Report 2024
Manufacturers trained (GMP and clinical compliance)	0	More than 10	New	Malabo Report 2025
TT agreements	2	More than 20	900%	Various public reports and Africa CDC records
Manufacturing fellowship programs operational	0	2 (Industrial Fellowship and Manufacturing Fellowship programs)	New	Malabo Report 2025
Number of countries with participants in Manufacturing Fellowship programs	0	10	New	Various public reports and Africa CDC records
Financing for manufacturing and technology transfer	1.5 billion	More than \$10 billion	850%	Various public reports

Emerging Challenges

Despite this progress, several strategic bottlenecks risk slowing or stalling momentum if not addressed.

Core Bottleneck/Issue	Risk / Strategic Impact
Fragmented demand & unpredictable offtake	Manufacturers cannot reach commercial viability or invest in scale-up
New products are not manufactured first in Africa, even when clinical trials are conducted on the continent	Loss of first-to-market advantage and continued dependence on external suppliers
Limited visibility and intelligence of specific products being manufactured on the continent	AU Member States and other buyers unable to include qualified African suppliers in tenders
Structural competitiveness gap	African firms cannot compete with established global suppliers
Regulatory fragmentation	Delayed approvals and weakened pooled procurement
Dependency on imported inputs (APIs, reagents)	Exposure to supply shocks
Fragmentation of manufacturing initiatives	Insufficient scale and efficiency
Limited uptake by global procurers	Africa produces but does not sell resulting in risk of local market collapse

As more African manufacturers begin commercial production, these risks are becoming more pronounced. African firms are entering markets dominated by global suppliers that benefit from decades of scale, subsidised finance, mature regulatory systems, and integrated supply chains. Creating a structural competitiveness gap that African firms cannot close through commercial effort alone. Without **targeted market-entry and market-shaping interventions**, African production risks being priced out of its own market before scale is achieved.

From Commitment to Market Creation

To correct this imbalance, Africa needs to deploy time-bound, **rules-based market formation tools**, including price-preference margins, volume guarantees, advance purchase commitments, predictable offtake through **APPM**, and regulatory reliance pathways. These measures are **not protectionism**; they are the same instruments used by all successful manufacturing economies to reach scale. Market shaping is therefore the **bridge from political commitment to commercial viability—and from viability to sovereignty**.

Decision Proposed for Assembly Endorsement

To translate political commitment into outcomes, the AU Champion proposes that the Assembly:

Adopt APPM at national level, embedding it within national procurement regulations as a recognised purchasing pathway when opted by the Member State.

Acknowledge the need for, and readiness to adopt, market-shaping instruments to support African manufacturers until economies of scale and competitive pricing are achieved, including “buy-African” policy instruments and an **African manufacturing finance window**, capitalised by African DFIs and aligned to industrial scale-up timelines.

Operationalise regulatory reliance and streamlined approvals, including ML3/ML4 reliance pathways and parallel submissions with WHO.

Convene an AU Extraordinary Continental Summit in Nairobi (April 2026) to adopt an executable roadmap with targets and progress reporting.

Implementation of these endorsements will help shift Africa’s manufacturing agenda **from pilots to continental scale**, aligning regulation, procurement, and finance with the **60% local manufacturing target by 2040**—and transforming political mandate into a functioning continental market.

H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto

President of The Republic of Kenya

AU Co-Champion for AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade

A. INTRODUCTION

Following Kenya's appointment as co-champion of the Protocol to the Agreement establishing the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on Digital Trade, during the 37th Africa Union Assembly in February 2024, alongside South Africa and Nigeria, Kenya undertook a number of foundational initiatives in the year 2025. Kenya, in accordance with the preservation of the *acquis* principle, in article 5 of the AfCFTA agreement, began its initiatives with a continental perspective but within the scope of two Regional Economic Communities, namely the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC).

The foundational initiatives were geared towards identifying stimulus strategies and consolidating them into a roadmap for the realization of the Protocol's objectives as outlined below:

B. OBJECTIVES GUIDING KENYA'S CHAMPIONSHIP ROLE

Kenya made reference to article 2 of the AfCFTA Protocol on Digital Trade, to align its initiatives to the below outlined objectives:

- i. Promotion and facilitation of intra-African digital trade by **elimination of barriers to digital trade** among State Parties;
- ii. Establishment of **predictable and transparent harmonised rules and common principles and standards** for digital trade;
- iii. Creation of **a transparent, predictable, secure and trustworthy digital trade eco-system** for businesses and consumers;
- iv. **Enhancement of cooperation among State Parties** on matters related to digital trade;
- v. **Promotion of common and open standards to enable interoperability of frameworks and systems** to facilitate cross-border digital trade
- vi. **Promotion of digital skills development, innovation and entrepreneurship and digital industrialisation as well as develop digital infrastructure** to facilitate the digital transformation of state parties;
- vii. **Provide a common legal framework for digital trade** among state parties.

C. CHAMPIONSHIP ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 2025

1. Hosting of the East African Community Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprises (EAC MSME) Ministerial Round Table

The Republic of Kenya and the International Trade Centre jointly organized the EAC Ministerial Roundtable on 10th November, 2025 on the side-lines of the 25th EAC MSME Trade Fair. In the Joint Communiqué for the Ministerial Roundtable, the representatives of EAC Governments and Private Sector committed to advance objectives of the Global Ministerial call to action made in Johannesburg in July 2025.

Through the Roundtable therefore, participating Governments undertook to **"accelerate SMEs' digital transformation** by working to ensure equitable access to **affordable and reliable digital infrastructure and connectivity, support the development of digital skills and nurture talent, and foster a flexible and enabling regulatory environment."**

2. Themed COMESA Heads of State and Government Summit and launch of the COMESA Electronic Certificate of Origin

Kenya in collaboration with the COMESA Secretariat and the COMESA Business Council, hosted the 18th COMESA Business Forum on 7th October 2025 on the margins of the 24th COMESA Authority Heads of State Summit, under the theme, **"Leveraging Digitalization to Deepen Regional Chains for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth"**.

In selecting the theme, the Republic of Kenya and COMESA considered the centrality of Digital Trade and the opportunities digitalization portends for economic growth. This helped to focus discussions on the next steps for Member States to harness the potential for Digital Trade. Trade Digitization formed part of the recommendations for the COMESA-EU Horticulture connect and the 18th COMESA Business Forum segments.

From the COMESA-EU Horticulture connect priority areas for concerted effort were identified as development of a regional food balance sheet and digital platforms to monitor crops and trade flows. It was noted that improved data infrastructure will enable stakeholders to anticipate market opportunities, manage supply better, reduce interceptions, and enhance compliance with international standards.

The 18th COMESA Business Forum encouraged the development and uptake of digital tools for trade and market development. Member States were encouraged to implement e-certificates of origin and the Regional Food Balance Sheet. Development of digital warehouse receipt systems, e-customs, and credit-risk data sharing platforms were also encouraged for improved trade and financing across the region.

As Champion for Digital Trade, H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H. President of the Republic of Kenya used the platform to encourage a common strategy that will enable the continent position itself under the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), to claim a more significant share of global trade. While accepting his chairmanship of COMESA, H.E. the President of the Republic of Kenya noted that as African Governments:

"We must move decisively to digitalise every aspect of trade facilitation by investing jointly in physical and digital infrastructure, modern transport corridors, regional data centres, and secure cloud services."

3. Launch of the Africa Export Import Bank Africa Trade Gateway (AFREXIMBANK ATG) in Nairobi In September 2025

Kenya welcomed the launch of the Africa Export and Import Bank Africa Trade Gateway in Nairobi in September 2025. The launch is a major milestone for digital trade in the East African region. Through the ATG tools digital trade procedures will be simplified, online consumer protection will be enhanced under the MANSA due diligence tool and payment settlement will be guaranteed under the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS).

D. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2026

1. Joint Calendar of activities for Co-Champions (Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa) and the AfCFTA Secretariat

To synchronize activities and synergize results of the three co-champions and the secretariat, a joint programme of work/calendar of activities for the champions (South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria) might be considered. The process could involve submissions of priorities by each champion to a joint forum of champions. The AfCFTA Secretariat can collate the submissions. The collated document can be used as a planning tool and to enable the Secretariat organize any necessary support for activities.

2. Leveraging Partnerships with Development Partners through existing programmes

Taking cognisance of the human, infrastructural and financial capital required for digital trade transformation, it would be prudent to embed into existing programmes such as the World Bank Digital Trade for Africa programme (DTA) Programme.

H.E. Duma Gideon Boko

President of The Republic of Botswana

AU Champion on Malaria Work on African Leaders' Malaria Alliance (ALMA)

AFRICAN UNION MALARIA PROGRESS REPORT 2025

African Union (AU) Member States continue to shoulder the overwhelming share of the global malaria burden, with 270.8 million cases (96% of the global total) and 594,119 deaths (97% of the global total) recorded in 2024. Progress has stalled since 2015, and Africa remains off track to achieve elimination by 2030. Only a small set of malaria-endemic Member States are currently on track to achieve the 2025 targets (incidence: Rwanda, South Africa, Zimbabwe; mortality: Botswana, Eswatini, South Africa, Zimbabwe). In response, Heads of State and Government endorsed the AU Roadmap to 2030 & Beyond and—together with partners—developed specific priorities to catalyse a “Big Push Against Malaria.”

Pillar 1 — Advance national leadership, accountability, and an integrated malaria response

Momentum in 2025 reinforced malaria as a whole-of-government and whole-of-society priority. Heads of State and Government issued an Assembly Decision recognising that ending malaria requires urgent, integrated and innovative solutions, and called for strengthened domestic financing, use of development bank resources and innovative financing, integration of malaria into broader health agendas, and investment in innovation and next-generation tools. Health Ministers also issued a unified call for a “Big Push” to eliminate malaria, including enhanced domestic resource mobilisation and a successful replenishment of the Global Fund. These commitments are being operationalised through strengthened coordination, public advocacy initiatives, and expanded accountability mechanisms, including ministerial championing and scorecard-based monitoring.

Pillar 2 — Protect funding for malaria and advocate for new resources

The financing environment deteriorated sharply in 2025. Official Development Assistance has declined by 21% in recent years. The closure of USAID and subsequent restructuring of PMI created sudden operational gaps across 24 supported Member States, delaying procurement and undermining programme planning and technical capacity. At the same time, unfulfilled pledges to the Global Fund led to an 11% reduction of existing (GC7) grants and the ongoing Eighth Replenishment of the Global Fund (2027–2029) has only mobilised approximately US\$11.3 billion in pledges, short of the US\$18 billion target.

The consequences of retreat are severe. A 30% reduction in malaria funding could result in 640 million fewer ITNs, 146 million additional cases, 397,000 additional deaths (75% among children under five), and US\$37 billion in GDP losses by 2030.

Against this backdrop, Member States are increasingly advancing domestic financing and multisectoral mobilisation mechanisms to protect gains and sustain delivery at scale. 12 countries have launched End Malaria Councils and Funds, which have collectively mobilised more than \$186 million to date and are effective tools for coordinating advocacy, action and resource mobilisation across the public sector, private sector, and civil society.

Pillar 3 — Strengthen data systems, scorecards, and targeted decision-making

Member States are accelerating the shift toward timely, subnationally tailored responses through stronger HMIS integration, national malaria data repositories, and expanded scorecard management tools. Scorecards are becoming entrenched as accountability instruments across levels—supporting leaders to identify bottlenecks, reallocate resources, and trigger remedial action. In 2025, Member States and partners allocated over US\$54 million to address areas of underperformance identified through scorecard tools (with additional resources supporting scorecard implementation).

Pillar 4 — Increase accessibility, acceptability, and quality of existing interventions

Even amid constraints, Member States continued to scale proven tools—while adapting strategies to biological and operational threats. The continent’s toolkit has expanded substantially, but the convergence of resistance, climate shocks, humanitarian crises, higher costs and constrained financing intensifies the imperative to sustain and improve the quality, equity and reach of life-saving interventions.

2025 saw particularly rapid scale-up of next-generation and high-impact approaches:

- Dual active-ingredient ITNs (pyrethroid–chlorfenapyr), which can reduce malaria burden by over 45% compared to pyrethroid-only nets; 72% of ITNs distributed across 39 Member States in 2025 were dual-AI nets.
- Malaria vaccines, with 24 Member States introducing WHO-approved vaccines and 28.3 million doses distributed in 2025 (up from 10.5 million in 2024).
- Expanded chemoprevention planning, including a record 22 countries planning SMC in 2025.
- Strengthened case management, including adaptations to emerging partial artemisinin resistance and strategies to extend the therapeutic lifespan of ACTs.

Pillar 5 — Develop and prepare for rapid introduction of new tools, innovation, and local production

These dynamics make sustained R&D investment and rapid introduction readiness essential. WHO prequalified two spatial repellents in 2025, now beginning to roll out as complements to IRS and ITNs.

In parallel, Africa is strengthening self-reliance through local manufacturing and market shaping. Member States and regional institutions are working to reduce dependence on imports (currently 99% of vaccines and 95% of medicines are imported) through regulatory harmonisation, technology transfer and market shaping—while supporting broader industrial and supply chain objectives. This push is reinforced by continental efforts to position Africa as a producer of essential health commodities and accelerate the pipeline of new vaccines, medicines, diagnostics and vector control products.

Call to action

A clear choice confronts the continent and its partners: protect progress through sustained investment, smarter targeting and faster innovation—or retreat and incur avoidable human and economic losses. Member States are urged to treat malaria as a central pillar of health sovereignty and economic transformation, protect and increase domestic and external funding, and fully implement the Catalytic Framework and “Big Push” priorities. International partners are called upon to stand with Africa by fulfilling commitments, aligning with national strategies, and investing in the tools and systems needed to secure a malaria-free future.



Reports of AU Champions

(Full Texts)

1. H.M. KING LETSIE III OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO, AU CHAMPION ON NUTRITION
2. H.M. KING MOHAMMED VI, OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO, AU CHAMPION ON MIGRATION
3. H.E. ABIY AHMED, PRIME MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA, AU CHAMPION ON CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW
4. H.E. ABDEL FATTAH EL-SISI, PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT, AU CHAMPION ON POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (PCRD)
5. H.E. FAURE ESSOZIMNA GNASSINGBE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO, AU CHAMPION ON SAATM
6. H.E. PAUL KAGAME, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, AU CHAMPION ON DOMESTIC HEALTH FINANCING.
7. H.E. FELIX ANTOINE TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, AU CHAMPION ON POSITIVE MASCULINITY
8. H.E. JOÃO MANUEL GONÇALVES LOURENÇO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, AU CHAMPION FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN AFRICA
9. H.E. JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA, AU CHAMPION ON THE AU FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
10. H.E. DANIEL FRANCISCO CHAPO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE, AU CHAMPION FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA
11. H.E. DR. JOSE MARIA PEREIRA NEVES, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CABO VERDE, AU CHAMPION ON PRESERVATION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN AFRICA
12. H.E. Dr. PATRICK HERMINIE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES, AU CHAMPION ON BLUE ECONOMY
13. H.E. ABDELMADJID TEBBOUNE, PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA, AU CHAMPION FOR COMBATING TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM
14. H.E. EVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI, AU CHAMPION FOR THE YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA
15. H.E. MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, AU CHAMPION ON PANDEMIC PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
16. H.E. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, AU CHAMPION ON ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE
17. H.E. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA, AU CHAMPION ON ELIMINATING CHOLERA
18. H.E. DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, AU CHAMPION ON INSTITUTIONAL REFORM
19. H.E. ALASSANE DRAMANE OUATTARA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE, AU CHAMPION ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRICAN UNION'S AGENDA 2063

Reports of AU Champions

(Full Texts)



20. H.E. JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA, AU CHAMPION ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN AFRICA
21. H.E. ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER, AU CHAMPION ON AFCFTA IMPLEMENTATION
22. H.E. MAHAMAT IDRIS DÉBY ITNO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD, AU CHAMPION ON THE FIGHT AGAINST PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS (PPR) 2025
23. H.E. JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA, AU CHAMPION ON REPERATIONS
24. H.E. BOLA AHMED TINUBU, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, AU CHAMPION FOR HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITY HEALTH DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP
25. H.E. DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, AU CHAMPION ON LOCAL MANUFACTURING OF MEDICAL PRODUCTS
26. H.E. DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, AU CO-CHAMPION FOR AFCFTA PROTOCOL ON DIGITAL TRADE
27. H.E. ADVOCATE DUMA GIDEON BOKO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA, AU CHAMPION ON MALARIA WORK ON AFRICAN LEADERS' MALARIA ALLIANCE (ALMA)



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