



## **Outcome Document of the Regional Consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Dakar, Senegal – 10-11 December 2012**

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### **Context**

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have focused global advocacy and collective action around a core set of goals, indicators and targets. However, with the target year of 2015 fast approaching a series of initiatives have commenced at global, regional and national levels to reflect on measures to accelerate progress on the MDGs and to define the contours of what has been dubbed the *post-2015 development agenda*. In Africa, the slow progress towards the current set of targets has made this an even more urgent agenda.

Cognizant of the limited role that African stakeholders played in shaping the Millennium Development Goals, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in partnership with the Africa Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Development Programme's Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP/RBA) have initiated a series of processes, including regional and sub-regional consultations, aimed at articulating an African common position on the post-2015 development agenda.

The post-2015 consultations were reinforced during the AU Heads of State Summit in July 2012, when African leaders mandated the Africa Union Commission (AUC) and its partners (i.e. the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme) to develop an African common position on the post-2015 development agenda through extensive consultations with all stakeholders in the region. This outcome statement summarises stakeholder views from three consultative events: a regional consultation in Accra, Ghana in 2011; a sub-regional consultation in Mombasa, Kenya in 2012; another sub-regional consultation in Dakar, Senegal; and an ongoing online survey initiated in 2011. Stakeholders in all consultations include governments, regional entities, civil society, members of parliament, academia and the private sector.

The regional consultation in Accra was hosted by the National Development Planning Commission of Ghana and attended by 47 representatives from 19 African countries<sup>1</sup>, representing governments, civil society and academia. The Mombasa event was attended by 35 participants from 16 countries<sup>2</sup>, representing CSOs, policy makers, parliamentarians, the private sector, academic institutions and regional entities including Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The Dakar event was attended by 121 participants. The online survey received 330 responses from all sub-regions of Africa<sup>3</sup>. To date a total of 82 representatives from 28 African countries have participated in the consultations.

Noting the relatively slow progress made by African countries towards the MDGs and recognising the capacity deficits and disabling initial conditions prevailing in a number of countries, participants unanimously agreed that the post-2015 development agenda should:

1. Emphasise inclusive economic growth and structural transformation
2. Re-orient the development paradigm away from externally-driven initiatives toward domestically- inspired and funded initiatives that are grounded in national ownership
3. Prioritise equity and social inclusion and measure progress in terms of both the availability and quality of service delivery
4. Take into account the initial conditions of nation states and recognise the efforts countries have made towards achieving the goals as opposed to exclusively measuring how far they fall short of global targets
5. Incorporate the Rio+20 outcomes and the outcomes of UN forums such as ICPD +20
6. Focus on development enablers as well as development outcomes.

### **Development outcomes**

Three broad development outcomes were identified as priorities for the post-2015 development agenda:

1. Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth
2. Innovation and technology transfer
3. Human development.

The regional consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, held in Dakar, focused on five (5) broad issues which covered all participant proposals. These issues were: (a) fine-tuning the existing priorities outlined in the post-2015 agenda; (ii) incorporating the development enablers in the aforementioned agenda and prioritising these as appropriate; (iii) aligning the post-2015 priorities with other development programmes and agendas including Rio+20 and NEPAD; (iv) allocating roles and responsibilities to all stakeholders in the interest of promoting adequate ownership at all levels and ensuring that the post-2015

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<sup>1</sup> Burkina Faso, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Morocco Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

<sup>2</sup> Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

<sup>3</sup> West Africa (35%); East Africa (46%); Central Africa (7%); North Africa (7%); Southern Africa (5%).

development goals are achieved; and (v) deciding upon the next steps of the consultation process.

## 1. **Development outcomes: what are the priorities?**

### **Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth**

- Creation of decent jobs, particularly for young people, women and specific vulnerable groups
- Sustainable development and greater equity; rural development, agricultural modernisation, diversification, development of agro-industry and promotion of rural-urban linkages
- Domestic resource mobilisation: strengthened financial intermediation; curtailment of illicit financial outflows and efficient resource use; optimisation of tax potential (optimal use of domestic budget capacity); creation of free trade zones; promotion of innovative financial sources and mobilisation of domestic resources (trust funds); Clean Development Mechanisms (CDMs)
- External resource mobilisation: enhanced capacity to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and financial flows; effective mobilisation and management of remittances from the Diaspora; official development assistance is required in addition to national resources, under the authority of national stakeholders and mechanisms
- Inclusive green growth initiatives
- Fair trade, expanded intra-regional trade and investment as well as South–South trade
- Increased investments in infrastructure
- Enhanced legal and regulatory framework and improved business environment
- Industrialisation and value addition: private sector growth; informal sector growth and/or formalisation; improved distribution and reinvestment of wealth generated from extractive and other industries; closer links between the primary and secondary sectors through agro-industry
- Economic infrastructure development (water, energy, information and communication technologies, roads, etc.) in both rural and urban areas; market development
- Harmonisation and application of intra-regional trade and exchange laws
- Improvement of the Public/Private Partnership (PPP).

### **Innovation and technology transfer**

- Access to high quality primary, secondary, tertiary, vocational and adult education institutions that meet minimum standards of quality, with a focus on indigenous languages.
- Promotion of high-quality education programmes that reflect labour market requirements and include a strong science component, with curricula delivered via ITCs and a range of different media at all levels (primary, secondary and tertiary)
- Strengthened career guidance, support, advice and job placement institutions

- Establishment of an African technological innovation funding bank to support sustainable development
- Effective technology transfer. Investment in research and technology transfer in line with each country's development needs and with NEPAD and Rio+20 priorities (i.e. production of high-quality medicines)
- Improvements the quality of teaching, training programmes, infrastructures and learning materials.

## **Human development**

- Eradication of poverty
- Food security
- Gender parity and equal opportunity
- Empowerment of young people
- Empowerment of women; eradication of violence against women
- Empowerment of the elderly and disabled
- Access to social protection for vulnerable groups
- Improvement of education and human capacity-building
- Health for all, with special focus on maternal and child health, sexual health, mental health, reproductive health, family planning and healthcare provision for HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
- Adequate shelter and access to water, sanitation and hygiene, transport and communication infrastructures, etc.
- Promotion of culture
- Appropriate consideration of the needs of displaced persons, refugees, climate change migrants, etc.
- Combating the consumption of harmful substances such as tobacco
- Strengthened capacity to implement disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation initiatives.

### **1. DEVELOPMENT ENABLERS**

Achieving the development outcomes cited above will require an enabling environment at national, regional and global levels. The following development enablers were identified as prerequisites for the post-2015 development agenda. These enablers will need to be prioritised in line with each country's development needs, however.

**Peace and security:** Peace and security are necessary conditions for development. National governments and the international community must therefore be resolute and united in their commitment to prevent the outbreak of violent conflict and support efforts to resolve this conflict through measures that promote and sustain peace and security.

**Good governance, transparency and fighting corruption:** Good economic and political governance are critical for promoting and sustaining development gains. National

governments and the international community must put in place measures that fight corruption and promote good governance, transparency and accountability.

**Strengthened local governance:** Promoting and improving decentralisation.

**Strengthened institutional capacity:** Strong institutions create positive norms and standards that are vital not only for ensuring continuity in policy design and execution but also for sustaining development outcomes.

**Promoting equality and access to justice and information:** Equality and access to justice and information are essential for social inclusion as well as the protection of the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups. Collectively, these elements promote social sustainability.

**Human rights for all:** Protecting the human rights of all citizens is fundamental to their effective and functional participation in society. It must therefore be treated as a high-priority development enabler. Similarly, citizens must be encouraged to meet their responsibilities to the state and to society.

**Domestic resource mobilisation:** Domestic resource mobilisation supports accountability and economic sustainability, with the private sector having a particularly important role to play through its involvement in Public-Private Partnerships. As well as mobilising resources, it is also important to improve the way in which these resources are used through carefully targeted investment.

**A credible participatory process with cultural sensitivity:** A participatory process that is mindful of cultural differences and sensitivities and encourages input from all stakeholders will help to raise awareness among the groups concerned and consequently ensure success in policy implementation.

**Enhanced statistical capacity to measure progress and ensure accountability:** Strengthening national capacities to measure and evaluate performance is vital for assessing policy effectiveness and taking timely corrective action. The importance of reliable quantitative and qualitative data is paramount, as is the need to promote a decision-making culture based on facts and statistics.

**Development agenda implementation and M&E resources:** This should not be limited to financial resources alone; human capacity-building and material resources are also required. Effective M&E systems must be introduced in key sectors, especially education.

**Prudent macro-economic policy that emphasises fair growth:** Macro-economic policy should aim at creating an enabling environment for inclusive economic growth underpinned by job creation.

**Developmental state:** A developmental framework that is informed by market principles and ably guided by the state is critical for ensuring that the short-term imperatives of growth are tempered by long-term development considerations such as equality, environmental

sustainability and social inclusion. **NB:** the concept of the "developmental state" must be reviewed to include other considerations beyond market principles.

**An enabling global governance architecture:** A global governance architecture that reinforces the principles of fair trade, undermines illicit financial flows and is framed by genuine cooperation and partnerships is essential for development.

**Scientific and technical decision-making support:** Governments must ensure that the outcomes of research and knowledge creation work are properly considered when drawing up development policies.

**Land monopoly controls:** Improving the availability of rural land.

**Improved service quality and access in all sectors:** Improvements in transport, communication, education, health, etc. to support economic growth.

**Greater focus on agriculture:** Intensification and mechanisation of farming methods, with 10% of the state budget allocated to the agricultural sector.

## **Conclusion**

The outcomes of the consultations so far call for a post-2015 development agenda that is convergent with Rio +20; takes into account both development outcomes and development enablers; is underpinned by economic transformation and social development; is sustained by credible national ownership; and is assessed using service access and service delivery indicators.