

## **Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want**

In light of its developmental challenges, African countries using the institutional framework of the African Union developed a continent-wide development plan that serves as a blueprint for sustainable development in the continent and is tagged the Agenda 2063. The African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 is a well-developed comprehensive plan for the structural transformation of Africa which was adopted at the AU's golden jubilee summit in 2013. These priority areas include African identity and renaissance, continuation of the struggle against (neo)colonialism and for the right to self-determination, African integration for socioeconomic development, peace and security, and democratic governance as well as to establish and position Africa's destiny at the global level. The Agenda is anchored in and driven by the development aspirations of the African peoples that were culminated through a broader continental consultative process. Various stakeholders including governments, civil society organizations, think tanks, research institutions, Africans in the Diaspora, women, children as well as the private sector were all consulted. Agenda 2063 is an ambitious and comprehensive blueprint for Africa. Agenda 2063 is an ambitious and people-centred continental vision with a carefully crafted action plan that aims to position Africa for growth over the next 50 years. It incorporates lessons and experiences from Africa's past. The core objective is to secure unity, and prosperity in simple terms, Agenda 2063 is targeted at ensuring that Africa does things differently in a people-centred manner, by scaling and scoping up to ensure it is bigger as well as better in terms of governance, performance outcomes, and impact on citizens. According to the Africa Union Commission, the critical success factors for the Agenda are inter alia the participation of multiple key stakeholders at all stages from preparation to implementation, a result-based management approach with SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound) strategic objectives as well as instilling the right set of African values, especially in the area of attitudes, and mindsets. Agenda 2063 originates from the AU Constitutive Act and vision while it also builds on continental, subregional, and national priorities. Seven primary aspirations comprise the Agenda 2063. These aspirations stem from the eight priorities. These priority areas have been further broken down into 18 goals which are further distilled into 44 priority areas. Furthermore, the 44 areas are finally watered down to 161 unique and distinctive national-level targets. Thus, the vision of Agenda 2063 is broadly comprehensive and covers the issues of identity, political independence, self-determination, and socioeconomic development in light of globalization.

## **The seven-point Agenda 2063:**

### **Agenda Aspirations**

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.
2. An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's renaissance.
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law.
4. A peaceful and secure Africa.
5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values, and ethics.
6. An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.
7. Africa as a strong, united, and influential global player and partner.

The framework entails 12 flagship projects which are regarded as a priority in implementing the Agenda. These projects include the establishment of African financial institutions, the formulation of a commodities strategy as well as ending of wars, civil conflicts, and gender-based violence. Other projects are integrated high-speed train networks that connect all African capitals as well as commercial centres, an African e-university that offers students easy access from anywhere on the globe, and the African outer space strategy that aims to use outer space to bolster development in agriculture, disaster management, remote sensing, climate forecast, banking and finance, as well as Défense and security. This framework also includes national-level strategic targets such as achieving a 100% literacy rate by 2030, universal access to quality health care and services by 2030, annual GDP growth of not less than 7% during the period, 50% of all elected officials at local, regional, and national levels to be women by 2030, Africa's share in global GDP to be 15% by 2063 as well as the science, technology, and innovation centres in Africa to have at least 15% of the world's patents by 2063. It boldly asserts that the proportion of aid in national development budgets in all African countries must be zero by 2030. In all, there are more than 160 national-level targets captured in the framework. Undeniably, Agenda 2063 requires serious consideration and focus with substantial effects likely to be witnessed by individuals, countries and the continent as well as the world. From conceptualization through design to its current implementation phase, Agenda 2063 appears quite different from previous continental development agendas. The Agenda is more detailed with specific goals, strategic priorities, and targets. These strategic goals and priorities are challenging but realistic and achievable.

**\*Views are personal**



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