

Contents

AFRICAN AGENDA 2063 FAST TRACK PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES	2
Background	2
A. The African Integrated High Speed Network.....	2
C. Creation of the Continental Free Trade Area	12
D. The Pan-African E University	14
E. The African Passport and Free Movement of People	17
F. Silencing the Guns by 2020	20
G. Implementation of the Grand Inga Dam Project	22
H. Creation of an Annual Consultative Platform for policy dialogue	26
H.4. Governance of the Forum	28
Critical Success Factors, Potential Risk and Mitigation Strategies of Agenda 2063	30
Leadership and Political Commitment	30
Capable Developmental State	31
Financing and Resource Mobilization	31
Participation, inclusion and empowerment of Citizens	32

AFRICAN AGENDA 2063 FAST TRACK PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

Background

The Bahir Dar Ministerial Retreat of the Executive Council, 24 - 26 January 2014, deliberated on the Agenda 2063 Framework and agreed on actions to strengthen the sustainable management of African resources and accelerate industrialization and agricultural transformation and development. Specifically, it agreed to provide the big push and propel growth and transformation through fast tracking the implementation of programmes identified by Agenda 2063 as having strong backward, forward and lateral linkages to the economy.

At the Malabo AU Summit, June 2014, the Executive Council mandated the AU Commission to continue to explore and prepare concrete actions in the implementation of these fast track programmes and initiatives, which are:

1. The African Integrated High Speed Train Network that crisscrosses Africa
2. African Commodities Strategy
3. Creation of the Continental Free Trade Area
4. The Pan-African E University
5. The African Passport and Free movement of People
6. Silencing the Guns by 2020
7. Implementation of the Grand Inga Dam Project;
8. Creation of an Annual Consultative Platform for policy dialogue

The Ministerial Retreat mandated the AU Commission, in collaboration with the NEPAD PCO, AfDB and UNECA to undertake an assessment study and develop the programme.

The XXIIth June 2014 AU Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, took the decision EX.CL/Dec.821 (XXV) requesting “the Commission to continue to explore and prepare concrete actions in the implementation of priority programmes and projects identified in Agenda 2063, listed above as well as capitalization of opportunities in the aviation sector within the framework of the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision on the Unification of African Air Space through dialogue and collaborative effort involving a wide range of stakeholders, and any other integrative initiatives that are in line with the spirit of Agenda 2063.”

A. The African Integrated High Speed Network

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This aims at connecting all African capitals and commercial centres through the Africa High Speed Train to facilitate movement of goods, factor services and people and also relieve transport congestion of existing and future systems.

A.1. Current Situation and Challenges

Africa currently faces huge infrastructure deficit, which has become a major constraint to growth. Africa's low road access rate of 34 percent compared to 50 percent for the other geographical areas, which among other factors, has made the continent, particularly those south of the Sahara, the least competitive in the world.

While road transport represents 80 to 90 percent of inter-urban and inter-state goods traffic, Africa has just over two million kilometers of roads and remains the least connected continent. Indeed, Africa has a relatively weak road density at 6.84km/100km² which is about half of that of Latin America at 12km/100km² and a third of that of Asia at 18km/100km². In terms of quality, the length of paved network is about 29.73 percent of the total network, that is, 610,770km.

The distribution of that network by regions indicates a large disparity with 65 percent of the missing links in the Trans-African Highway (TAH) network found in Central Africa. A legacy of colonialism, the roads, ports, and railroads were built for resource extraction and political control, rather than to bind territories together economically or socially. Inland transport costs are much higher in Africa's landlocked countries because of high costs.

Road safety remains a genuine concern for Africa: 28 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants occur in Africa with the majority of the victims being pedestrians and cyclists and the most affected segment of the population being the young. Road accidents are the second cause of fatalities in the age group between 5 and 44 years; and cost Africa about USD 10 billion, close to 2% of GNP.

Railways, a vital mode of mass transport, is lacking. Few new rail lines were built on the continent since independence; and there is lack of interconnection between networks with the exception of North and Southern Africa. There are only six African countries with better railroad infrastructure than the global average.

Three of them (Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt) are in North Africa, while the remaining three (Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland) are from Southern Africa. Africa predominantly uses Cape gauge (1,067mm) and metre gauge (1,000mm) whereas High Speed Rail requires standard gauge (1,435mm). Due to this importance of rail transport in the integration of the continent, the AU Executive Council endorsed the Ministerial resolution (EX.CL/Dec. 294(IX)) to the fact that railways must constitute the backbone of the harmonized transport infrastructure Master Plan in Africa.

A.2. Why A High Speed Train and why now?

Agenda 2063 aims at achieving politically and economically integrated Africa with a world class infrastructure that criss-crosses Africa and a minimum of 7 percent average annual growth rate of GDP over the fifty years. The Africa Integrated High Speed Train Initiative (AIHSTI) helps to meet the huge infrastructure demand generated by Agenda 2063 and complements the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) – as a rolling continental infrastructure initiative – in all its tenets: Vision, scale, space and time.

It will also act as an “enabler” to the realization of continental frameworks such as the Boosting of Intra-African Trade (BIAT), the Continental Free Trade Area, (CFTA), the Comprehensive Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the Accelerated Industrial Development for Africa, (AIDA), the African Mining Vision (AMV, Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Action Plan, (PMPA). More critically, through the principle of “Pooled Sovereignty” the project would be a key catalyst for bringing the very much needed political stability, peace and security of the continent.

The Africa Integrated High Speed Train Initiative (AIHSTI) enhances Africa’s global competitiveness, boosts intra-African trade and facilitates free movement of people. For example, urbanization is projected to increase from 40 percent in 2010 to nearly 60 percent in 2040 (PIDA 2012) and Africa has more than one hundred cities with over one million; and seven cities with more than ten million inhabitants.

On the other hand, many of Africa’s 55 countries are very small, with populations of fewer than 20 million and economies smaller than \$10 billion—too small to grow on their own and also build a high class infrastructure. Infrastructure costs are unlikely to be fully recovered without a significant government contribution, although operations and maintenance costs may be self-funding, but.

High Speed Rail (HSR) has been recognized worldwide as one of the most prominent transport modes in recent years. Several countries in Europe, America and Asia are actively pursuing planning and construction of new lines to expand rail networks to enhance productivity and transport efficiency at low costs. HSR offers metropolitan areas, cities and regions unique location advantage and opportunity for technological and economic transformation through reducing travelling times and lowering travel costs.

It helps to link major production and consumption centers and open up land-locked countries to improve intra-Africa trade and allow countries to access seaports. The use of rail infrastructure for freight and passenger transportation also helps to reduce financial risk.

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The High Speed Rail offers other significant development opportunities including: (i) fast-tracking Africa's laws to allow the free movement of goods, services, capital and people, leading to the formation of large, competitive African markets Africa; (ii) helping boost intra-African trade and economic growth, through supporting the development of Africa's manufacturing industry and increased job creation opportunities; (iii) attracting and generating proprietary rail technology and investments to the continent; and (iv) accelerating regional integration and Africa's participation in the global value chain.

A.3. Objectives

The AIHSR aims to build a transport network with a modern high speed railway able to develop fast connections, smart and effective around the various development centers to help achieve borderless, interconnected and prosperous Africa.

The objectives of the High Speed Rail (HSR) System are to:

- i. Support a healthy and competitive African economy through relieving transport congestion of existing and future systems facilitating movement of people and factor services, supporting the development of Africa's manufacturing industry, boosting intra-African trade and making Africa as a premier tourism destination; ;
- ii. Facilitate access to a rapid transit system, efficient, healthy and modern capable to support regional integration and answer the most effective way of transportation demand;
- iii. Promote improved logistic platforms for a better modal transfer of different involved traffic;
- iv. Ensure a clean and sustainable environment through higher density living and growth of regional hubs as well as comfort and excellent service to users;
- v. Attract and generate proprietary rail technology and investments to the continent, build intra-Africa capacity; thereby support Africa's economic and technological transformation; and
- vi. Accelerate regional integration and Africa's participation in the global value chain through, among others, fast-tracking reform of Africa's laws to allow the free movement of people and capital and the formation of large, competitive African markets Africa.

A.4 Principles

The Continental Infrastructure Strategic Initiative "Freeway" (CSIF), which AIHSR, is an integral part of, will be anchored on key principles, most notably:

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- i. Pooled Sovereignty – the goodwill of African countries and people to place “Africa first”, than self-interest, thus pool inalienable sovereign assets into a pool of commonly owned infrastructure
- ii. Finance – Africa has all the natural and potential financial and human resources to finance its development agenda; what is lacking is the “innovative” and “thinking-out-of-box” funding mechanisms to self-finance our development programmes.
- iii. Infrastructure – PIDA will form the cornerstone of Agenda 2063 Infrastructure strategy, in the context of the Continental Infrastructure Strategic Initiative “Freeway” (CSIF) project.
- iv. Education – Educating and messaging Africans (young and old), with the right narrative to buy-in, to this transformative and integrative.

A.5. Components and Processes of the AIHSR

The creation of a high-speed train network by 2063 that is based on the conventional network developed under the PIDA infrastructural vision of interconnected Africa, where intermodal complementarity reflects the coherence and efficiency of the selected strategic options.

To speed up the AIHSR, a multidiscipline team of experts has been created to elaborate a comprehensive plan addressing the key aspects of the project i.e. technical and technological dimensions, financial and investment options, institutional arrangements.

The development options of high- speed trains include:

- The Maglev (magnetic levitation) train - a monorail that utilizes electromagnetic levitation and is thus not in contact with the rails, contrary to conventional trains. This process minimizes friction and achieves higher speeds: the current top record is 581 km/h (reached in 2003).
- The High Speed Train (HST) – train à grande vitesse (TGV) - electrically powered and propelled by electric motors (except the prototype TGV 001, whose power is supplied by a group of turbine gas generators) and regularly reaching speeds of 320 km/h on specific lines (high speed lines).
- The Very High Speed Train using magnetic levitation- 3 – uses magnetic levitation also known as the VAC TRAIN or HYPERLOOP has potential for both high speed, low in fossil fuel consumption and is 100 percent safe.

As regards routing, the HSR is conceptualized under three scenarios.

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Under Scenario I, Phase 1, rail would commence with Eastern Africa, which is the world's fastest urbanizing sub-region; houses most of 'Africa Lions' economies, and a greater number of landlocked countries which could benefit from transport linkages Phase Two connects Southern Africa with West Africa, which is the most rapidly urbanizing region after East Africa with already high population densities in Lagos, Kinshasa, Luanda, and Abidjan.

Phase Three links Egypt with other AMU countries and the East African countries; and will complete the Cape to Cairo infrastructure connectivity.

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B. African Commodities Strategy

This initiative involves the development of an African Commodities Strategy, based on best practices, leading to Africa regaining control of the pricing of commodities of which it is the dominant producer of; hedge against price and currency fluctuations in the trading of these commodities; develop value chains through adding value at various stages of the extraction process; and ultimately shift African economies from exporters of primary produce to exporters of semi-processed and processed goods.

B.1. Current Situation and Challenges:

Many African economies are heavily dependent on commodities livelihoods. Over the past decade, high commodity prices have been primary source of growth of many African countries; and has also provided impetus for countries and mining companies to make significant investments in exploration and development. Recent discoveries of minerals in such countries like Ghana, Kenya, Mauritania and Uganda has been an additional motivating factor.

Africa's huge natural potentials are, however, dampened by the contending limitations in exploitative capacity, lack of processing capacity resulting in almost all commodities exported in raw forms, excessive reliance on a narrow range of commodities (e.g., oil or diamond) and monopolization of global markets.

Less than 6 percent of African cotton and only 25% of cocoa is processed in the continent; leaving 90% or more of the value addition to occur outside of Africa with little of the price of the final/manufactured products going to African farmers, agro-industry and agribusiness enterprises (African Economic Outlook 2013).

The lack of processing capacity has deprived of African countries the forward linkages and employment generation capacity that could have helped accelerate economic growth and transformation. This is compounded by adverse impacts of the highly volatile and unpredictable prices that shifts the focus of producing countries from investment in expanding the productive capacity to managing short term concerns.

B.2. Why commodities strategy and why now?

Several continental initiatives were launched and decisions made to tackle problems associated with commodities. The Abuja Treaty (1991), for example, called upon the eventual attainment of socio-economic transformation of the African Continent using her abundant resources.

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More explicit was the “Arusha Declaration and Plan of Action on African Commodities” of 2005 that called for the promotion of diversification and value addition by adopting a value chain approach; improvement in the competitiveness of Africa’s commodity sector; and visible participation of African producers and businesses in the international supply and value chains.

The Abuja Declaration on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa (HLCD-3A) called for putting in place, among others, programmes to accelerate the development of the value chains for strategic food commodities, build competitive food supply systems and reduce reliance on food imports. Further, the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) 2009 aimed for a transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources for broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development through down-stream linkages into mineral beneficiation and manufacturing; up-stream linkages into mining capital goods, consumables and services industries; and side-stream linkages into infrastructure (power, logistics; communications, water) and skills & technology development (HRD and R&D).

B.3. Objectives:

The African Commodities Strategy has three objectives. To:

(i) Enable African countries to add value, extract higher rents from their commodities, integrate into the Global Value chains, and promote vertical and horizontal diversification anchored in value addition and local content development, as part of a set of holistic policies to promote the development of a vibrant, socially and environmentally sustainable commodities sector;

(ii) Propose policy measures and institutional mechanisms (at the national, regional and continental levels) to address price volatility and assure more stable and high incomes to African commodity producers; and

(iii) Develop approaches to improve consultations at the national/regional levels for deepening regional commodities markets, consistent with mandates and priorities of existing regional economic blocs as well as goals of Agenda 2063.

B.4. Elements of the Strategy:

The strategy reviews and draws lessons learned from the implementation of relevant AU Frameworks and strategies such as the Arusha Declaration and Plan of Action on African Commodities, the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA,) the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV), CAADP, BIAT and related decisions.

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It takes into account also the non-AUC Sub-regional and continental Strategies such as the COMESA and other Sub-regional Cotton to Clothing value Chain strategies, the Pan-African Cotton Road Map, the Leather and Leather Products Strategy.

It also adopts the value chain approach to promote Commodity Based Industrialization (CBI); explore the development of Regional and Continental Value Chains in strategic commodities as well as how to integrate the Small and Medium Industries and Enterprises most of whom are young people and women into these regional and global value chains for job and wealth creation but also for boosting intra-African trade. The policy measures to be taken in the context of Agenda 2063 include:

- i. Developing commodity exchanges throughout Africa to facilitate efficient market interaction, manage price volatility and assure more stable and high incomes to commodity producers;
- ii. Promoting and supporting diversification - vertical and horizontal diversification pivoted on value addition and local content development, as part of a set of holistic policies to promote the development of commodities sector consonant with member states overall development priorities;
- iii. Establishing commodity fluctuation funds
- iv. Create enabling environment for African countries to:
 - a. Enable African countries to add value, and extract higher rents from their commodities and integrate into the Global Value chains;
 - b. Make strategic and effective participation in Global Value Chain including determination of levels of entry for key commodities.
- v. Developing a governance framework and enforcement mechanism for:
 - a. sustainable management of extractive resources;
 - b. Choice and access to technology for accelerated growth and sustainable value addition
 - c. Cross boundary management of extractive industries
- vi. Put in place institutional mechanisms for improved consultations at the national/regional levels; and
- vii. Measures for deepening regional commodities markets, consonant with existing regional economic blocs in order to reduce African countries vulnerability to global shocks and excessive dependence on commodities.

C. Creation of the Continental Free Trade Area

This aims to significantly accelerate growth of Intra-Africa trade and use trade more effectively as an engine of growth and sustainable development. It includes doubling of intra-Africa trade by 2022, strengthen Africa's common voice and policy space in global trade negotiations and establish the financial institutions within agreed upon timeframes.

C.1. Current Situation and Challenges:

With 55 states, Africa is the world's most fragmented continent. Since the creation of the OAU in 1963, the pursuit of integration at regional and continental levels and harnessing economies of scale and benefits of a large integrated market has thus been a priority economic and political agenda.

Today, there are as many as 14 Regional Economic Communities with a majority of countries belonging to two or more RECs that clearly illustrate the importance that African countries attach to regional integration. A number of continental initiatives have been launched to realize Africa's integration; the first and perhaps the most important being the creation of the OAU in 1963.

Other landmark schemes include: the adoption in 1980 of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos, the signing in June 1991 of the (Abuja) Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) that provided for the creation of the AEC in six stages extending over a period of 34 years and with the RECs as the building blocks; adoption of the Constitutive Act of the African Union (AU) in 2000 that established the Union and launched NEPAD the following year. Despite progress made on several fronts, the process of African integration is still at early stages.

Today, the level of intra-African trade stands at around 11 per cent, the lowest among the major regions of the world. Being a price taker on both export and import trade and dependent on a narrow range of export commodities, Africa remains vulnerable to the vicissitudes of global market prices and also economic and financial crisis.

Africa has not also been able to negotiate from a position of strength on such issues like the EPA between the EU and African countries, and the WTO Doha Round Negotiations, among others, which underline the need to deepen Africa's market integration.

It is against this background that the 6th Session of the Conference of AU Ministers of Trade to fast track the establishment of a Pan-African Free Trade Area (FTA) followed by

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the decision of AU Summit to focus its January 2012 Session to take all possible measures to boost Intra-African Trade and support the fast tracking of CFTA.

C.2 Why CFTA and why fast track?

The establishment of a continental FTA and its fast tracking is critical and timely for a number of reasons:

i. Accelerating trade growth. The establishment of a continental FTA and its fast tracking will lead to a significant growth of Intra-Africa trade and assist Africa to use trade more effectively as an engine of growth and sustainable development.

It is worth noting that between 2000 and 2010, the creation of the COMESA FTA led to a six-fold increase in intra-COMESA trade. The realization of the Tripartite FTA is expected to lead to further growth of intra-African Trade while the continental FTA will build on these existing successes and enable Africa to participate in global trade as an effective and respected partner.

ii. Reduce protectionism and facilitate trade. Currently there is a high level of protectionism inhibiting trade. Two thirds of African countries are either more protectionist than Africa in general or face more limiting market access conditions.

The CFTA, by eliminating barriers progressively, can offer substantial economic and social gains. For example, intra-African trade in agriculture faces a higher rate of protection than nonagricultural sector with almost all countries imposing higher tariffs on agricultural imports from other African countries. The CFTA offers an opportunity to maintain food security and boost trade in agricultural products.

iii. Enhancing overall economic growth and linkages. The CFTA helps to enhance resilience of African economies to external shocks; improve competitiveness of Africa's industrial products through harnessing the economies of scale of a large continental market; increase the depth and breadth of diversification through geographically based specialization and transformation of the continent's capacity to supply its import needs from within Africa; and boosting food security through reduction of the rate of protection on trade in agricultural produce among African countries.

D. The Pan-African E University

The Pan-African E University is aims at accelerating development of human capital, science and technology and innovation through increasing access to tertiary and continuing education in Africa by capitalizing on the digital revolution and global knowledge; reaching large numbers of students and professionals in multiple sites simultaneously by developing relevant and high quality curriculum and ensure the prospect African student a guaranteed access to the University from anywhere in the world and anytime (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

D.1. Current Situation

Higher education in Africa faces with many challenges, notably degradation of the quality of education and the huge gap between needs to ensure quality education and available resources. More specifically:

I. Quantitative expansion without the commensurate quality improvement resulting from rapid population growth, push for universal access to primary education, and desire to improve school enrolment at the secondary level. For example the Institute for Statistics of UNESCO (IUS) revealed in 2010 that the gross enrolment rates (GER) in higher education has increased on average by 8.6% annually between 1970 and 2008, while the world average was 4.6% for the same period.

II. Low ranking of schools including tertiary levels at the international level (the world universities ranking);

III. Lack of qualified teachers capable of adapting to changes;

IV. Mismatch between the needs of the labour market and training;

V. Limited financial resources and

VI. Inadequate infrastructure. According to IUS (UNESCO), in 2008, about 223,000 students from sub-Saharan Africa were enrolled in higher education institutions located outside their country of origin. The number of mobile students in sub-Saharan Africa represented 4.9% of enrolled students in national higher education institutions in their country of origin, or three times more than the global average (1.9%).

D.2. Why Virtual and E University?

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Agenda 2063 envisages developing a world class human capital to drive Africa's economic and technological transformation through universal access to quality education. From early childhood education to primary, secondary, technical, vocational and higher education, Africa is expected to witness a true renaissance, through investments made, as governments and the private sector in education, science, technology, research and innovation. In the Africa of 2063, at least 70% of all high school graduates will have access to tertiary education with 70% of them graduating in the sciences, technology and innovation programmes.

With the high growth rate of Africa's population and its relative youthfulness, the challenges of achieving the education and skills development goals of Agenda 2063 are immense.

D.3. Objectives:

I. Increase access to quality tertiary and continuing education in Africa by reaching large numbers of students and professionals in multiple sites simultaneously and developing relevant and high quality Open, Distance and eLearning (ODEL) resources;

II. Ensure the prospect African student a guaranteed access to the University from anywhere in the world and anytime (24 hours a day, 7 days a week), places and countries of their choice;

III. Develop infrastructure, human and financial support systems to facilitate the effective use of Open, Distance and eLearning in rural and disadvantaged urban areas;

IV. Enhance the pedagogical and research capacity of African tertiary educational institutions; and

V. Raise the global standing of the university as well as build and sustain partnerships with institutions that can support the African Virtual and University mission

D.4. Elements of Pan African E University

This E University will be an integral part of the Pan-African Virtual University and envisages putting in place an Internet Based Interactive Learning (learn at your own pace at any place) by designing and developing multimedia courses that are web-enabled and form the curriculum of a full-fledged degree program. This enables people who are off-campus to register and attend classes offered to a normal on-campus student registered under the same program.

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The advantage of Virtual and E University is the creation of conditions for all interested and motivated students to work in their respective comfortable environment and take courses of interest without being restricted to the classroom and work at a pace the student finds convenient.

Prescribed textbooks and materials useful to the student are made available online. Multimedia based Soft-Teachers, innovative methods of using Java based "concept applets" for educational resource development and latest technologies will be used. Relevance and adaptability of curriculum to Agenda 2063 will be guaranteed to the extent possible.

E. The African Passport and Free Movement of People

A common African Passport, free movement of people is a pillar of African integration and accelerated growth of intra-African trade. This programme aims at transforming Africa's laws, which remain generally restrictive on movement of people despite political commitments, to bring down borders through removal of visa requirements, promoting the issuance of a single visa by Member States and ultimately a single African passport to ensure free movement of all African citizens in all African countries.

E.1. Current Situation and Challenges:

Africa's laws remain generally restrictive on movement of people despite repeated calls and political commitments made in various AU/OAU fora to promote and enhance free movement of Africans citizens in all African countries. Among the RECs, Central Africa is the most restrictive region and West Africa the most liberal in terms of visa free travel (McKinsey 2013).

The same, McKinsey study reported the failure of some African countries to provide even for strategic regional preferences when deciding visas. Today, North Americans, followed by Europeans, enjoy the most liberal entry into Africa of visa-free travel or obtaining a visa on arrival in at least half the countries on the continent (McKinsey 2013).

As can be recalled, many African countries inherited arbitrary borders from the colonial era that separated families, clans and tribes. Current African countries are characterized by highly porous borders against the backdrop of limited resources and capacity to enforce a comprehensive system of control, with recurrent deportations and forced displacement with the exception of countries like South Africa.

Irregularity in migration flows has resulted in highly skilled professionals operating in low skill requiring and labour intensive sectors such as agriculture, and security or construction.

On the positive side, some RECs, particularly ECOWAS and EAC, have made considerable progress in easing free movement of people over the past decade or so. ECOWAS has introduced the ECOWAS Passport, which is a giant step towards eliminating barriers to the cross-border movement of citizens, and indeed in promoting a common identity among ECOWAS citizens.

ECOWAS nationals cross borders without visas and the right of establishment is gradually gaining root. EAC has also introduced a common passport valid within the community to facilitate cross-border movement of the nationals of its members. Free movement in other

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RECs remains relatively more restricted, and pursued more on a country-to-country basis than multilaterally.

E.2. Why Free Movement of People?

Free movement of people is sine quo non for expanded intra-African trade, economic growth and integration. Well-structured labour mobility and multi-country governance framework helps regulate migration flows, guarantees the rights of migrants and the matching of needs of both receiving economies and sending countries.

It helps also to minimize the negative side effects of labour migration, which include downward impacts on wages and working conditions in receiving countries, tensions between domestic and foreign workers and brain drain in the sending countries.

Free labor mobility also permits cultural and social exchanges and enhances the diversification and development of economies of scale of national economies. For example, a country with a surplus of good doctors can assist another in which healthcare systems are inefficient, in exchange for side payments or incoming flows of labour in other areas African people are keen to move freely within their continent, and to the best opportunities without undue restrictions.

People and labor must be mobile across countries in a region. Restrictive laws on free movement only help to perpetuate illegal flows of migratory workers, a source of tension in the receiving countries and sometimes between those countries and the countries of origin. Further, a clear regional framework for labour migration is less destabilizing because clear governance systems guarantee migrant workers, their countries and the economies that receive them.

E.3. Objectives:

- i. Eliminate visa requirements by 2016 to allow free entry and exit of African citizens within Africa.
- ii. Put in place African Passport to be issued by all member states by 2025 to be preceded the development of a common sub-regional citizenship including sub-regional passports (as in the case of ECOWAS) as a stepping stone to a common African citizenship and African passport.
- iii. Develop a governance framework, including monitoring mechanisms for managing the free movement of Africans.

E.4. Elements of the Programme:

The issue of migration is often masked by elicited negative reactions, xenophobic fears and security concerns. As a result, the programme involves raising awareness about the importance and benefits of free movement of people. This will be followed by the development of protocols relating to:

I. Sensitization of operatives on Free Movement

II. Removal of visa requirement while people continue to travel with National Passport and Health Certificate with stay limited to 90 days;

III. Removal of road blocks and security checkpoints on international highways coupled with joint border patrols by neighboring states;

IV. Adoption and introduction of a Schengen-type visa

V. Introduction of single African passport;

VI. Residence, right to work and expulsion

F. Silencing the Guns by 2020

The AU Heads of State and Government meeting on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the founding of the OAU, pledged “not to bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans, “to end all wars in Africa by 2020” and “make peace a reality for all African people and rid the continent free of wars, end inter- and intra-community conflicts, violations of human rights, humanitarian disasters and violent conflicts, and prevent genocide.”

The AU Heads of State and Government meeting on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee.

Silencing the Guns is a prerequisite for creating a Peaceful and Secure Africa sine quo non for achieving accelerated development and technological transformation. Enduring peace and security and sustainable development can be realized through systematically and strategically halting all armed conflicts and addressing their causes and consequences, which include sound governance; the improvement of social and economic well-being; the expansion of human capabilities; the freedom from hunger, deprivation, and physical violence; and the effective mitigation of environmental threats such as drought, desertification, land degradation, deforestation, and climate change.

F.3. Measures to be taken

(i) Implementation of the African Governance Architecture (AGA). More specific measures are:

- Strengthen democratic governance including decentralized systems, the rule of law and capacities of national institutions to meet the aspirations of African peoples;
- Reject unconstitutional changes of government, including through any attempts to seize power by force but recognize the right of peoples to peacefully express their will against oppressive systems;
- Promote integrity, fight corruption in the management of public affairs and promote leadership that is committed to the interests of the people; and
- Foster the participation of African peoples through democratic elections and ensure accountability and transparency.

(ii) Implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture:

- Ensure that conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction as well as developing strategic and development interventions that are aimed at Silencing the Guns in Africa by

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2020 are rooted in sturdy, resilient, participatory, efficient, effective, accountable and inclusive governance systems.

G. Implementation of the Grand Inga Dam Project

Grand Inga Dam Project aims to transform Africa from traditional to modern sources of energy and ensure access of all Africans to clean and affordable electricity and help make the continental (combined) regional power pools fully operational.

Africa's energy profile is characterized by low production, low consumption, and high dependence on traditional biomass energy in the midst of a huge wealth of unexploited energy resources, amongst others, over 1.1 million GWh of exploitable hydro capacity. Africa continues to have the world's lowest hydropower utilization rate with a mere 7 percent of the hydropower currently exploited.

The total installed capacity for electricity generation in the continent is currently only about 138 GW which is less than 3% of the World's total (EIA, 2013). 31% of the countries have an electrification rate below or equal to 10%, while nearly 70% have an electrification rate below or equal to 30%.

Why the Grand Inga Dam?

Building on PIDA, Agenda 2063 envisages providing electricity access to all households by 2063. PIDA, on its part, envisages reducing energy costs and increasing access from 39% in 2009 to nearly 70% (additional 800 million people) by 2040. It envisages also developing efficient, reliable, cost effective and environmentally friendly regional and continental power generation and transmission projects and renewable energy resources.

The Agenda 2063 and PIDA energy infrastructure programme focuses on major hydroelectric projects and interconnects the power pools (continental power pool) to meet the increasing demand for power. The total combined installed capacity of all regional pools is 125,762 MW, although most of the existing capacity is thermal (75%) due to the size of the COMELEC and SAPP systems, which are predominately thermal. Hydropower is predominant in CAPP (86%).

In EAPP and in WAPP, the present share of hydro is 24% and 30%, respectively, but this share is expected to grow rapidly as ongoing and future generation investments are mainly in hydropower projects (e.g. Ethiopia: Gibe III with 1870 MW). The Grand Inga Dam, which can generate 43.5 GW, can help not only solve electricity shortages on the continent, but also provide reliable, affordable and clean power for Africa's industrialization and development.

Current Status of Implementation

The Grand Inga Hydropower Project is under preparation and its first phase named Inga 3 will be equipped for 4,800 MW with low head dam, with an option of 7,800 MW with high head dam. It is an overall scheme which should incrementally reach a total capacity of over 40,000 MW (Inga 3 to 8) that will be developed under PPP model and designed to supply electricity to the entire continent.

A Treaty on Grand Inga Project was signed between South Africa and DRC on 29 October 2013 and ratified by DRC Parliament on 21 November 2014. The two countries also signed a Cooperation Agreement on Energy Resources on 9 September 2014 in Cape Town.

The 4800 MW power generated by Inga 3 will be shared as follows: (i) 2500 MW for South Africa; (ii) 1300 MW for extractives industries and populations of Katanga (SNEL); and (iii) 1000 MW for Kinshasa and other DRC cities (SNEL).

On 17 June 2014, the DRC Government adopted a new law liberalizing the electricity sector. In addition, three Organs dedicated to management, supervision and coordination of Inga 3 have been established, namely:

(i) Interministerial Commission for INGA site development (CODESI) composed of Ministers, under the authority of His Excellency the Prime Minister and operational since June 2013.

(ii) Inga 3 Coordination Unit « CGI3 » composed of Experts, under the authority of the Minister in charge of Hydraulic Resources and Electricity, chaired by a Coordinator and is operational since October 2013.

(iii) INGA site development Facilitation Committee « CFI » composed of Experts from Government and Civil Society, under the authority of the Minister in charge of Hydraulic Resources and Electricity and is operational since March 2014.

Next Steps:

Negotiations with Nigeria to purchase around 2000 MW through the construction of INGA-Calabar Interconnection Line started in February 2014 and the Agreement is still to be finalized.

A coordination workshop of all Inga 3 stakeholders will be held in February 2015. A new law dedicated to Grand Inga project development, named INGA Law, is under preparation and is expected to be ratified by October 2015 at latest in order to create an economic climate that encourages private investment in the development of DRC huge hydropower potential.

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The setting up of the dedicated Authority named ADEPI (Autorité de Développement et de Promotion du site d' Inga) mandated to development and promotion of the Inga Site (Inga 3 and subsequent phases of Grand Inga hydro project) must be completed by December 2015 at latest.

It is planned to launch the construction of Inga 3 in October 2016, expecting that all technical studies, tender documents and resource mobilization process would be completed before this deadline. Construction is expected to be completed by December 2021.

Other pending issues include:

- I. Selection of the private investor to be completed by December 2015;
- II. Completion of the final technical and detailed studies;
- III. Resource mobilization for all components of the project;
- IV. Operationalization of the project development entity (ADEPI);
- V. Implementation of the Inga Law.

In addition, the Department of Infrastructure and Energy is preparing a detailed study on harmonized continental regulatory framework for the energy sector to support the establishment of a continental power market. This study will focus on the following activities:

- (i) Assessment of existing regulations at the national, regional and continental levels;
- (ii) Identifying gaps, weaknesses and opportunities in the effectiveness of regulations in the energy sector in Africa;
- (iii) Identifying best practices at the global level for replication in the African energy sector; and
- (iv) Development of regional and continental harmonized regulation frameworks for the African energy sector and identifying adoption process and implementation modalities.

This initiative is, however, handicapped by lack of funding.

Conclusion

- It is important to mention that political stability of the DRC over the next decades would be an essential prerequisite to enable project completion, sustain the INGA III operation and the development of the other phases of the Grand Inga project and related power transmission corridors.

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- DRC Government should be encouraged to speed-up the setting-up of ADEPI and the ratification of INGA Law so as to improve the investment climate and attract private investors in the development of all phases of Grand Inga project.
- AUC should contribute in mobilizing all development partners to support this project of continental impact as well as the development of power transmission corridors to enhance power trade and better energy security at regional and continental levels.
- Enough funding should be mobilized to support the development of a harmonized continental energy regulatory framework necessary for the establishment of real continental power market to be operational by 2035 at late.

H. Creation of an Annual Consultative Platform for policy dialogue

This Annual African Forum aims at bringing together, once a year, the African political leadership, the private sector, academia, civil society, women, youth, media as well as community and faith leaders to discuss developments and constraints as well as measures to be taken to realize Agenda 2063.

H.1. Current Situation

The Annual African Forum for Agenda 2063 will build upon the African Development Forum (ADF), an Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) flagship biennial event has been operational since 1999.

The ADF is multi-stakeholder platform for debating, discussing and initiating concrete strategies for Africa's development convened in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB) and other key partners “to establish an African-driven development agenda that reflects consensus and leads to specific programmes for implementation.”

The Forum brings together diverse participants including Heads of State and Government, policymakers, development partners, other United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations (IGOs/NGOs), academia, practitioners, civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector, and eminent policy and opinion leaders.

H.2. Why the Annual African Forum?

Although ADF has been operational for a decade and half, the breadth, depth and complexity of issues that Agenda 2063 addresses and multiplicity of actors involved in its implementation require an Agenda 2063 focused Annual Forum. Agenda 2063 is an endogenous strategic framework for Africa's transformation over the next 50 years anchored in inclusive growth and sustainable development.

It is a vision and call to action to fulfill African aspirations and the AU Vision “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.” It calls on all Africans, policy makers at all levels, business, religious, community, women and youth leaders, ordinary citizens to act in concert with determination and muster the needed resolve to confront the challenges facing Africa.

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In addition to involving wide ranging stakeholders, Agenda 2063 builds on the pan-African movement and the struggle against colonialism to accelerate past and existing strategic frameworks including, most notably, the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty and NEPAD and other sectoral frameworks and Summit decisions.

A central tenet of Agenda 2063 is the imperative of building upon best practices and what has worked in Africa so as to forge a paradigm shift and transformation on African development based on home-grown solutions. Agenda 2063 requires a set of skills, training, performance, values, attitudes, motivation, professional integrity, relationships, and communication skills to fully understand Agenda 2063 and build ownership at the national, local and community levels.

It also seeks to ensure the realization of African Renaissance by placing, among others, the common good ahead of individual wellbeing and put in place results-oriented policies, strategies and programs.

H.3. Objectives

The objectives of the Annual African Forum are:

- i. Build cross-sectoral awareness and cultivate deeper understanding of the role of Africa's citizenry in the implementation and improvement of Agenda 2063 at all levels.
- ii. Discuss and take action on Agenda 2063 progress reports as well as new and emerging issues that impact the implementation of Agenda 2063 in the light of a fast-moving and highly interconnected world that poses both a challenge and unprecedented opportunities for growth.
- iii. Broaden/change the context for policy decision-making by bridging gaps between government, private sector, academia, civil society organizations and communities; thereby effectively engage political, business, academic and other leaders of society in collaborative efforts to accelerate the realization of Agenda 2063;
- iv. Sustain and nurture political commitment and public support for Agenda 2063.
- v. Identify and recognize best practices and champions to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2063.
- vi. Build and strengthen alliances and partnerships to advocate for implementation of action plans on natural resources governance to enhance development.

H.4. Governance of the Forum

The Forum will be headquartered in Addis Ababa and be at the African Union Commission, but will be independent, impartial and not tied to any special interests. It will work in close cooperation with all major international organizations to build a world-class intellectual resources and processes.

The Forum will engage leading industry experts, policy makers, legislators, private sector, academia, civil society, media, women, youth and religious leaders in a high-level, informal environment of trust to transform dialogue into insights, insights into agendas and agendas into action. It will use its convening power to improve business processes; engage its stakeholders to develop significant strategic insights to help shape the global, regional and industry agendas.

I. The Pan-African E-Network

The Pan-African E-Network involves a wide range of stakeholders and envisages putting in place policies and strategies that will lead to transformative e-applications and services in Africa; improve physical infrastructure, especially the intra-African broad band terrestrial infrastructure; and cyber security, making the information revolution the basis for service delivery in the bio and nanotechnology industries.

Further, the African Internet Exchange System (AXIS); e-Transform Africa, which envisages transforming Africa into an e-Society and PIDA and the manufacturing component parts for e-devices merit priority consideration.

Critical Success Factors, Potential Risk and Mitigation Strategies of Agenda 2063

Note: This segment applies to the implementation of First Five Ten-Year Implementation of the 20 Agenda 2063 Goals from 2014-2023

The technical document spells out the key success factors and the potential risks/risks and mitigation strategies with respect to the implementation of Agenda 2063.

The critical success factors are leadership and political commitment, harmonious and predictable working relationships between the AUC and the RECs, the need for capable development states, institutional capacities for implementation, monitoring and evaluation, ensuring participation, inclusion and empowerment of citizens and results orientation.

The risks /threats and mitigation strategies cover conflict, instability and insecurity, failure to harness the demographic dividend, climate risk and natural disasters, external shocks and inadequate resources.

1. Critical Success Factors and Strategies:

Leadership and Political Commitment

This is a critical success factor that would shape Africa's future and determine the success of Agenda 2063. Transformational leadership will be required in all fields and at all levels: politics, business, industry, academia, religion, chieftaincy, culture, health amongst others.

- Implementation arrangements for Agenda 2063 have identified leadership points at the national, regional and continental levels and assigned roles, responsibilities and accountabilities to each of them. A monitoring and evaluation framework has been proposed to track the performance of each of the leadership points - to ensure compliance to their responsibilities.
- To ensure political commitment Agenda 2063 National Advisory Groups made up of non-state actors facilitated by the ECOSOCC of the AU will provide advocacy, participate and monitor the implementation of Agenda 2063. It is supposed to engage the political leadership at all times with respect to the implementation of Agenda 2063.

In addition, the Pan Africa Parliament has been assigned the role of ensuring that all African Legislatures adopt Agenda 2063 as the blue print for Africa's development

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and also play the advocacy for African Political Parties in the use of Agenda 2063 as the basis for the preparation of their campaign manifestos.

- The first down payment signaling political commitment at the highest level for the implementation / oversight of Agenda 2063 is the creation of Ministerial Committee on Agenda 2063 by the Executive Council of the AU. It is anticipated that the committee will galvanize the political leadership to ensure the successful implementation of Agenda 2063.

Capable Developmental State

Ability of Member states to domesticate the Ten Year Plan Results Framework into the national planning system is key to the success of the implementation of Agenda 2063. This hinges on Member States having capable professionals, institutions, systems and processes at all levels to manage national development process driven by the Ten Year Plan Results Framework.

Goal number 12, Priority Areas 1 and 2 (under Aspiration 3) of the Results Framework is devoted to the building of capable development states. Implementation of aspects of the strategies relate to the building of the capacities of public sector institutions in domestication, development management in general.

- A capacity assessment and development plan is being prepared for RECs and continental organs which will be involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the First Ten Year Plan. The next step will be develop a capacity assessment / development plan for member states based on a sample of members states.

The implementation of all capacity development plans at the various stakeholder levels will go a long way in building ensuring the timely and effective implementation of the First Ten Year Plan at all levels.

- To strengthen the domestication capacity at all levels, an operational manual for the implementation of the first ten year at all levels is to be developed and stakeholders introduced to them. These manuals will enhance speed of compliance and consistency / predictability in the outcomes of the tasks assigned to the various stakeholders.

Financing and Resource Mobilization

Sustainable and predictable financing is critical to the success of the implementation of the First Ten Year Plan. In view of this, steps are being taken to ensure that funds are available at the national, regional level and continental level for the implementation of the Plan. The key steps include:

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- The development of a comprehensive financing, domestic resource mobilization and partnership strategies which identifies the various areas in the plan which will require incremental / new interventions at the national, regional and continental levels and identification of the potential sources of funding for each intervention area. Part of the strategy is to provide concrete steps to make the required intermediation operational / possible at the three levels of implementation.
- Goal 20, Priority Areas 2 and 3 under aspiration 7 of the first Ten Year Plan sets targets / strategies for Member States to increase the quantum of domestic resources mobilized in real terms and also takes steps to minimize aid dependency and maximize benefits from partnerships.

Participation, inclusion and empowerment of Citizens

Effective participation of all stakeholders in the conception/ design, implementation monitoring and evaluation of Agenda is a critical success factor which will enhance understanding and knowledge of Agenda 2063, ownership, mobilization of resources, individual and collective commitment.

- Agenda 2063 has been prepared through a participatory process. Key groups - the private sector, Think Tanks, Faith Based, the Youth, Women, the Media, the Planners, CSOs, the Diaspora, the RECs have been consulted. Member States are to use their national systems to elicit comments from the Citizenry through a participatory process and submit to the AUC.
- The proposed implementation framework for the ten year plan makes provision for ECOSOCC facilitating in collaboration with members states government setting up and galvanizing non-state actors in the domestication, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063. In addition, there is to be an annual Continental Stakeholder Platform where stakeholders from all formations of the African Continent including the diaspora will participate in discussions on progress on Agenda 2063 implementation.
- Inclusiveness of all citizens on both the processes and outcomes of Agenda 2063 is at the heart of Aspirations 1,4 and 6 of the Agenda, where specific targets and strategies are to be put in place to expand productive access and participation in economic opportunities to the poor; provide social protection to the vulnerable, marginalized provide social protection to the vulnerable, marginalized and the disable and empowerment of women and youth.

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- Citizen engagement and participation are at the heart of the Communication Strategy that has been prepared and is going to be implemented to galvanize the African Citizenry in the form of a call to action.