About Agenda 2063

1. Agenda 2063: What it is

Agenda 2063 is both a Vision and an Action Plan. It is a call for action to all segments of African society to work together to build a prosperous and united Africa based on shared values and a common destiny.

In their 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), while acknowledging past successes and challenges, rededicated themselves to the continent’s accelerated development and technological progress. They laid down vision and eight ideals to serve as pillars for the continent in the foreseeable future, which Agenda 2063 will translate into concrete objectives, milestones, goals, targets and actions/measure. Agenda 2063 strives to enable Africa remain focused and committed to the ideals envisaged in the context of a rapidly changing world.
2. Why a 50 Year Agenda?

Fifty years is, undoubtedly, an extremely long development planning horizon, however strategic we may call it. Is this a serious choice? How can one realistically plan given breath-taking changes globally and within the continent? What are the benefits of such long-term planning? These are some of the questions raised by many people from all corners.

The choice of a 50 year time must be understood within the context of the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the OAU; and the need for the continent to take stock of achievements, successes/ failures and map out a long-term vision as well as set goals and targets.

In operational terms, the Agenda 2063 would be a rolling plan of 25 years, 10 years, 5 years and short term action plans.

3. Agenda 2063 - Why now?

This new effort to envision Africa’s long-term development trajectory is timely for several reasons:

Changing global context. Globalization and the information technology revolution have provided unprecedented opportunities for countries and regions with the right policies to make significant advances and lift huge sections of populations out of poverty, improve incomes and catalyze economic and social
transformations. In addition, most African economies now have in place sound macro-economic and market-oriented economies which have spurred growth, trade and investment expansion.

Building on the NEPAD experience. National, regional and global efforts made to implement NEPAD, unseen during the LPA and AT, have enabled AU to build institutions (e.g., APRM, etc.), demonstrate unprecedented commitment to implement agreed agenda, generate valuable lessons that present strong foundation for Agenda 2063. Indeed, Agenda 2063 is a logical and natural continuation of NEPAD and other initiatives.

A more united and strong Africa. Africa today is more united, a global power to reckon with, capable of rallying support around a common agenda and speaking with one voice with demonstrated strong capacity to negotiate and withstand the influence of forces that would like to see it divided.

Strong and well functioning regional institutions. Africa’s sub regional institutions have been rationalized and the eight officially AU recognized Regional Economic Communities (CEN-SAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and UMA) are today strong development and political institutions that citizens’ can count on and Agenda 2063 can stand on.

New development and investment opportunities. Africa today is faced with a confluence of factors that present a great opportunity for consolidation and rapid progress. These include:

Unprecedented positive and sustained growth trajectory of many African countries resulting from sound macro-economic policies and strategies bolstered by high commodity prices

Significant reduction of armed conflicts, improved peace and stability, coupled with advances in democratic governance.

A fast rising broad based African entrepreneurial and middle class, coupled with the youth bulge, which can act as catalyst for further growth and technological progress.

Changes in the international finance architecture, the rise of the BRICS and improved flows of FDI to Africa beyond commodity producing sectors.
The above factors constitute a unique opportunity for Africa to capitalize upon. Agenda 2063 while seizing these opportunities, underlines the fact that success depends on unity of purpose; transparency; placing citizens’ first; sound governance; willingness and capability to assess performance and correct mistakes timely.

4. What is the added value of Agenda 2063 and how does it take account of past and ongoing policies and programmes at national, regional and continental levels?

Agenda 2063 should be seen as a logical continuation of recent developments with renewed and invigorated efforts to catalyze development and strengthen African integration and unity. It aims to build upon the achievements and draw lessons from earlier strategic planning efforts at the regional and sub-regional levels, including the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty and the NEPAD, to address new and emerging issues in the continent over the short, medium and long-term. Indeed, Agenda 2063’s guiding principle is continuity of actions, drawing appropriate lessons, building upon what has worked in the past; and in brief making every effort to do things better.

Thus Agenda 2063 should be seen as a unique opportunity to recreate the African narrative by putting it into perspective to energize the African population and harness citizens creativity through a set of clear goals that citizens participate in setting for unity, peace and development in the 21st century. The thrust of Agenda 2063 is a program of social, economic and political rejuvenation that links the past, present and the future in order to create a new generation of Pan Africanists that will harness the lessons learnt and use them as building blocks to consolidate the hope and promises of the founding parents for a true renaissance of Africa.
Agenda 2063 is expected to be a source of inspiration for development of national and regional sustainable development plans.

5. How would strong political commitment for Agenda 2063 be sustained over the long-term?

Through the Solemn Declaration of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at Addis Ababa, on 26th May 2013, Africa’s top political leadership committed itself to long term national and continental development and technological transformation through a strategic planning and implementation process. This is an encouraging starting point that offers a solid entry point to translate political statements and commitments into concrete actions, provide the means to track progress and take timely decisions on corrective measures.

Agenda 2063 envisions several measures at the national level that include: among others, designation of national focal points for Agenda 2063, integrating Agenda 2063 milestones/targets into national planning frameworks, as well as regular progress reports on Agenda 2063 to cabinet retreats and to National Assemblies/Parliaments.

6. What are some of the critical success factors to be factored in the conception, design and implementation of Agenda 2063?

Apart from the strong political commitment stated above, other critical success factors include the following:

Participation and inclusion of all stakeholders in the conception, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 is one of the building blocks of Agenda 2063 success. This will enhance awareness, ownership
and knowledge of Agenda 2063 objectives and purpose and strengthen collective commitments to realizing its goals. Thus Agenda 2063 aims to be fully participatory and be owned by all the continents stakeholders, with the full engagement of women and youth in particular, to rekindle the spirit of working together toward collective prosperity, common destiny under united and strong Africa.

Agenda 2063 will put in place a results-based approach with concrete targets that are measurable and can be tracked and monitored;

While providing a general framework and a common set of goals and targets, Agenda 2063 also takes account of Africa’s diversity and defines trajectories and addresses issues related to this diversity.

Agenda 2063 must be seen as a part of the African Renaissance which calls for changes in attitudes, mindsets to inculcate the right set of African values, i.e., discipline, focus, honesty, integrity, transparency, hard work and love for Africa and its people. Agenda 2063 provides the opportunity for Africa to break away from the syndrome of “always coming up with new ideas but no significant achievements” and set in motion high levels of productivity, growth, entrepreneurship and transformation.