

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR AFRICA

Regional Programme Newsletter

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3rd Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum convenes in Yaoundé, Cameroon

4-5 OCT: The third edition of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum convened in Yaoundé, Cameroon to assess and analyze the political, civil, security and humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad Basin (LCB). The Forum was organized by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), in collaboration with the eight governors, the Government of the Republic of Cameroon, and with technical support from the African Union, UNDP and Crisis Management Initiative.

Under the leadership of His Excellency, Joseph Dion Ngute, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Cameroon, the Forum was attended by the Governors of the Far North and North regions of Cameroon, the Hadjer-Lamis and Lac provinces of Chad, the Diffa region of Niger, Borno State of Nigeria and representatives of the Governors of Adamawa and Yobe States of Nigeria also attended the Forum. Also present was UNDP Assistant Secretary General and Regional Director for Africa Ahunna Eziakonwa.

Press release: **English | French**

Final communiqué: **English | French**

Interview with Amb. Mamman Nuhu, Executive Secretary, Lake Chad Basin Commission and Head of Mission of the Multinational Joint Task Force (Cameroon Tribune) ►

Op-eds

Local ownership is key to long-term recovery and resilience in the Lake Chad Basin ►

Civil Society and Stabilization in the Lake Chad Region ►

News report (AriseTV Nigeria) ►



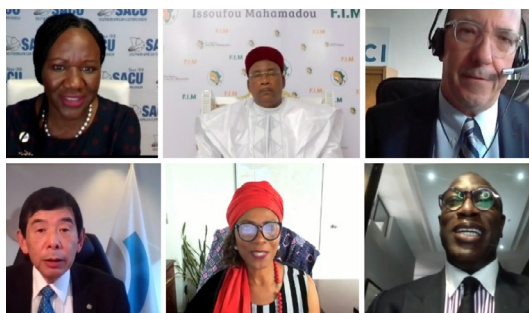


Vaccines delayed is development denied for Africa, emphasize global leaders and artists at UNDP special event

21 SEP: Prominent leaders and personalities congregated on the margins of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly to mobilize towards vaccine equity and highlight the urgency to find actionable solutions for speedy and universal vaccine access for all, particularly those in developing countries and marginalized communities in Africa.

Organized by UNDP and moderated by Al Jazeera English anchor, Folly Bah Thibault, the event represented a call to action to governments and development partners to reconsider the production, supply, distribution and financing of vaccines and how to redress the impact of the current COVID-19 crisis.

[Read more ►](#)

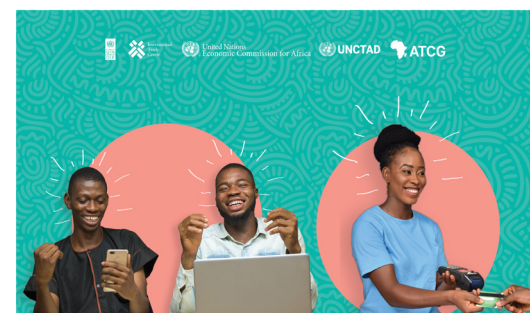


Regulation as a Stimulus (RaaS) initiative launched by UNDP, Africa investor (Ai) and AfCFTA Secretariat

29 SEP: African governments can turn trade barriers into accelerators that build back stronger economies and accelerate intra-continental trade. At a high-level side event on the margins of the 76th United Nations General Assembly, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, Africa Investor, and UNDP presented the new and innovative Regulation as a Stimulus economic model and urged African governments to support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through intentional regulatory reforms that remove trade bottlenecks so as to enhance the continent's socioeconomic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through interviews with industry stakeholders, documentary research, econometric analysis, policy mapping and surveys, Regulations as a Stimulus (RaaS) identifies regulatory levers that can be utilized by African Heads of State to quickly create change, offsetting some of the short-term adjustment costs and relieving firms from higher export costs.

[Read more ►](#)



Dialogue on making the AfCFTA work for African e-commerce

30 SEP: In collaboration with UNCTAD, ECA, ITC and African Technology and Creative Group, UNDP hosted a continental dialogue on Making the AfCFTA Work for African E-Commerce. The dialogue was organized as part of the preparatory processes for the AfCFTA E-Commerce Protocol and created a real opportunity for policy innovation as no global or African agreement on e-commerce exists to use as a benchmark. Through its AfCFTA project, UNDP is linking the various efforts on e-commerce in Africa including the continental e-commerce strategy led by the African Union, policy processes led by the AfCFTA Secretariat, and efforts by RECs, countries, and the private sector to build a menu for the protocol.

Participants from 44 countries - representing unicorns such as Flutterwave from Nigeria and start-ups from Somalia, Gambia, Eswatini, South Sudan and Madagascar, shared innovative recommendations for the AfCFTA E-Commerce Protocol including: a tailored definition of e-commerce and digital trade capturing Africa's ambitions and realities; de minimis (very low) thresholds for parcels originating in Africa; legal recognition of cross-border virtual work by professionals; and interoperability of digital identity systems to build trust.



13 auditors certified to implement the Gender Equality Seal in private sector enterprises

20 SEP: The UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa, in partnership with the Government of Canada, held a virtual certification ceremony to award certificates to 24 participants for successfully completing the Gender Equality Seal (GES) for Private Sector audit training. Among the 24 participants, 13 individuals were certified as GES auditors. The GES Certification Programme for Private Enterprises is an innovative tool for organizations and businesses to reduce gender gaps, promote gender equality in the workplace and women's economic empowerment, and contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Held between January and June 2021, the training equipped participants with the theoretical and practical knowledge to provide support in auditing firms implementing the GES in Africa. "It is important for private sector companies to be deliberate about gender responsiveness in their initiatives by closely examining issues to reinforce what is working and strategize what needs to change," said Ms. Elsie Attafuah, UNDP Resident Representative in Uganda.

[Read more ►](#)



Report launch: Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Scaling up Made-in-Africa Solutions

14 SEP: On UN Day for South-South Cooperation, UNDP in collaboration with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation organized a side event with high-level speakers from Lesotho, Ethiopia, Mauritius and Cabo Verde, to launch the joint publication "Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Scaling up Made-in-Africa Solutions". The publication features nearly 40 good South-South and Triangular Cooperation solutions across all SDGs, with the aim to promote and facilitate peer learning and collective efforts among African countries and their development partners in addressing development challenges and building resilience with home-grown solutions.

The event attracted 260 registered participants from 68 countries/regions across the globe. This included participants from governments, development cooperation agencies, private sector, universities/thinktanks, CSO, development finance institution, regional organizations, and UN entities; 160 from 37 African countries; and 95 UNDP colleagues from 40 countries.

[Read the report ►](#)



Op-ed: A renewed discourse on managing inclusive transitions in Africa

8 SEP: History shows that political transitions can either accelerate or reverse development outcomes, depending on how they are managed. Africa is experiencing ongoing political transition: whether demanded by citizens; or manifested through the actions of political elites effecting change. Transition could occur in non-conflict, conflict, and post-conflict settings. But what is the quality of Africa's transitions, and how best can they be supported to enable positive long-term outcomes?

What is almost certain is that investment in building effective, inclusive, accountable, and just institutions at all levels prior to transitions, could foster post-transition stability. In a new research emerging from UNDP, the level and quality of the participation of citizens, especially women and youth in the transition process throughout the unfolding of the process itself – whatever its impetus and whichever type of development setting in which it occurs – looks likely to be a critical and an overlooked variable.

[Read the op-ed ►](#)



UNDP-Chatham House Dialogue Series: Policy for Recovery in Africa: Vaccine access and manufacturing

30 SEP: African countries appeared more resilient to the immediate health impact of COVID-19 than many other parts of the world. However, lack of access to critical vaccines will likely mean that the continent lags behind other regions in inoculation against COVID-19. This event, featuring speakers from the AU, Africa CDC, experts and academia, explored the policies, financial capital, international support, and regional cooperation required for developing vaccine manufacturing capacities and supply chains on the continent.

The meeting was held as part of the new Policy for Recovery in Africa series, held in partnership with Chatham House and UNDP, which brings together expert speakers and decision-makers to examine and exchange on key challenges, potential solutions, and approaches for implementation as African countries confront the shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Watch the webinar ►](#)



Key partnership with UN-Habitat on urban resilience in the Sahel

SEP: For the first time on the ground in such a large region, UNDP and UN-Habitat will jointly examine the ongoing transformations shaping urban resilience to shocks and stresses. Made possible by the comprehensive framework for collaborative work signed between the two agencies in December 2020, this ambitious initiative will be co-financed for one year through a new partnership developed with the Sahel Resilience Project.

In practice, the Sahel Resilience Project and UN-Habitat will jointly conduct an integrated spatial assessment at the regional, national, and local levels to better understand the ongoing transformations shaping urban resilience in the region and deploy UN-Habitat's CityRAP (City Resilience Action Planning) training as a basis for local planning with municipal authorities, communities, and local actors in seven Sahelian partner countries.



Benchmarking visit on conflict prevention and promotion of peace in Eastern and Southern Africa

7-9 SEP: Representatives from the East Africa Civil Society Network (ECONet), the Southern Africa Partnerships for the Prevention of Conflict (SAPPC), the African Union's Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) Department and UNDP's Conflict Prevention and Africa Borderlands Centre initiatives, conducted a joint benchmarking visit to the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) in Accra, Ghana. The objectives of the workshop were to enhance the efforts of the AUC in strengthening the early warning capacities of umbrella civil society organization (CSO) networks in East and Southern Africa.

Among the key takeaways, participants concluded that CSOs should forge and strengthen partnerships with RECs and member countries through the value addition and quality of their contributions to influence stability, governance, regional economic cooperation and sustainable development in the regions. Further, building trust and confidence between CSOs and governments in East and Southern Africa was considered to be essential for partnerships in promoting peace, security and development in the regions.



2020 Update to Social Assistance in African Countries Data Platform

22 SEP: The UNDP RSCA Inclusive Growth Team organized a webinar to present the 2020 update to the Social Assistance in African Countries Data Platform, and also share a tutorial on how countries, with UNDP support, can use the online platform data in their work. With over 30 indicators on 110 government-run social assistance programmes across Africa, the data platform now covers the years 2010-2020.

43 participants from various UNDP regional and country offices joined the webinar to discuss recent trends in social protection across the continent and demonstrate how UNDP Country Offices can use the data platform in their work. The webinar was organized as a follow-up and complement to the 2019 State of Social Assistance in Africa report, published in 2019 in partnership with the African Union, ILO, UNECA and UNICEF.

Data platform ►

Read the 2019 State of Social Assistance in Africa Report: [English](#) | [French](#)



Capacity building and training workshops on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

SEP: Throughout the month of September, UNDP's Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Project conducted several trainings and capacity building workshops across Mali, Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone. The themes of the workshops included the role of CSOs in civilian disarmament in border communities, the dangers of the proliferation of SALW and the voluntary deposit of weapons, and border security management and arms control in border areas.

Participants consisted of defence and security forces, customs and immigration officers, CSOs, early warning and response officials, and border security workers. In Sierra Leone for example, a nation-wide verification and marking exercise of all police and military weapons was conducted and resulted in the verification of over 2,000 weapons for both the police and the military, as well as the marking of over 100 weapons with the ECOWAS marking protocols.



Capacity building for national-level climate experts and the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN)

27-29 SEP: In 2021, the AUC Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), embarked on a joint project with the UNDP RSCA to strengthen the existing capacities of AU member states and Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) on the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts towards the actualization of the AU's Silencing the Guns Agenda.

Under the project, a capacity building activity was designed and delivered to 14 African Climate Change negotiators and experts. The participants enhanced their knowledge on climate change negotiations, community-level negotiations on environmental issues, and participated in simulations on negotiations with feedback from the experts. The training programme was organized by the Clingendael Academy as part of Clingendael's negotiation capacity building programme to support conflict parties and mediators, financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

OCTOBER 2021 Calendar



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UNDP's Regional Programme for Africa contributes to regional development by addressing challenges facing Africa and amplifying opportunities related to the priorities and aspirations defined by the African Union (AU) and other regional entities.

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13 OCTOBER

Data Revolution for Africa's Development in the 4th Industrial Revolution

19 OCTOBER

PVE Africa Practitioners' session: Enhancing the Use of Behavioral Science & Insights in Preventing Violent Extremism (TBD)

20-21 OCTOBER

Training on Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data

20-22 OCTOBER

YouthConnekt Africa Summit | Accra, Ghana Register here: <https://www.youthconnektafrica2021.org/>

26 OCTOBER – 23 NOVEMBER

UNDP-PERIPHERY online training on climate and disaster risk financing