

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR AFRICA

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# EDITORIAL

## Note

### **Sustaining peace: a spotlight on stabilization and supporting effective transitions in Africa**

Stabilization works and is working in the Lake Chad Basin region. In recognition of the experiences and successes of the past 18 months in the four target countries, UNDP, the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the African Union Commission and partners met in Yaoundé to **validate the extension** of the **Regional Stabilization Facility for the Lake Chad Basin**. A reinforced approach informed by experiences on the ground will ensure interventions are delivered with speed, at scale and lay the foundation for a renewed social contract between local governments and affected communities.

The extension of the facility is therefore being conceived within the framework of this sustained demand from national authorities, a need to maintain a regional approach and the need to ensure alignment between immediate stabilization and long-term development.

The achievements have prompted more demand for UNDP's stabilization approach. In Ouagadougou, UNDP, the Liptako Gourma Authority, representatives from the three member states (Niger, Mali and Burkina), and other technical and financial partners, **launched** the **Liptako-Gourma Facility** to support Member States' responses to insecurity at national, sub-regional and regional levels and restore and rehabilitate infrastructure and livelihoods in communities.

Political transitions present risks to stability, but they are also opportunities for reform. In a virtual meeting of the **AU Peace and Security Council** on AU Support to Member States in Political Transitions and Post-Conflict Situations, UNDP emphasized the progress made on peaceful transitions and post-conflict peacebuilding in Africa as well as the efforts to embrace transitions through multi-party elections.

A new research project initiated by UNDP on **Supporting Inclusive Transitions** will support the AU and its member states to mitigate the risks of, and effectively manage, transitions across Africa. The research will focus on transitions in diverse development settings and how to better integrate citizens' perspectives in the understanding of and effective management of transitions.

## UNDP Africa Director visits DR Congo - discusses country's development and regional initiatives

**16 August, Kinshasa:** During a week-long visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Bureau of Africa Director Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa reiterated UNDP's support to the Congolese people and authorities in their efforts to fight inequalities and injustices and foster inclusive and sustainable development. Ms. Eziakonwa also urged the international community to foster intra-African entrepreneurship and the trade opportunities the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) presents to contribute to development in the DRC.

“The AfCFTA is seen as a game changer in boosting regional value chains,” explained the UN Assistant Secretary-General. “Government officials, African ambassadors, private entrepreneurs, women influencers and young innovators I met, all referred to the role the private sector can play in supporting development especially through the AfCFTA.”

In a meeting with His Excellency Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the DRC and Chairman of the African Union (AU), Ms. Eziakonwa explored practical ways to invest in innovators, implementing the AfCFTA towards inclusive economies, empowering women, taking climate action and ensuring democratic process are in place to achieve peace and stability across Africa.



[Read more about the DRC mission ►](#)

## Call for Applications: AfYWL Fellowship Programme

UNDP is searching for 25 young African women to join the second cohort of the African Young Women Leaders (AfYWL) Fellowship Programme.

The AfYWL Fellowship is a partnership between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Established under the framework of the AUC Chairperson's 1 Million by 2021 Initiative, the fellowship aims to provide opportunities for African youth in the key areas of education, employment, entrepreneurship and engagement, and mainstream youth and women in key development spaces.

The AfYWL Fellowship Programme offers an interesting 12-month assignment with UNDP at its HQ in New York or in one of its regional or country offices. The fellow may also be assigned to the UN Secretariat or the AU Commission. For the second cohort (2021-2022), UNDP will work with the AUC and AU member states to enhance women's leadership and representation in public and private institutions through targeted leadership training and capacity development to promote the participation of young women in decision-making roles.

**Deadline for applications: 14 September 2021**

**Apply Now ►**



*A career with global impact is in your hands*



### Regional training workshop on Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) in Africa

**24-26 Aug:** UNDP Africa's Finance Sector Hub collaborated with UNDESA, UNITAR and UNECA in organizing the regional joint training on Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs). The workshop aimed to create a virtual knowledge exchange and learning platform for African countries to share their national and local experiences related to strengthening INFFs.

Countries gained insights on how to choose the right approach to developing SDG-aligned integrated financing strategies and establishing governance frameworks to support the realization of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 in country-specific contexts. The workshop also offered a comprehensive training on the detailed methodologies of the 4 INFF Building Blocks: (1) assessment and diagnostics; (2) financing strategy; (3) monitoring and review; and (4) governance and coordination. Almost 500 representatives from 42 African countries participated in the 3-day workshop, including from ministries of finance, planning and economic development, universities and UN countries.

Learn more on the INFF platform: <https://inff.org/>



### Supporting CSOs and women's movements to meaningfully participate and hold states accountable

**10-12 Aug:** Under the Spotlight Initiative, UNDP partnered with Equality Now to organize a three-day virtual training to strengthen the capacity of regional Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and women's rights movements in developing and submitting periodic reports on the situation of the rights of women and girls on the continent.

The training allowed the 30 participants, representing all five regions of the continent, to share best practices and challenges based on their experiences on shadow/alternative reporting at the regional and global levels. "Supporting CSOs and women's movements to meaningfully participate and hold states accountable to their commitments is one of the key principles of enhancing good governance," said Odette Kabaya, Regional Advisor and Gender Team Leader at UNDP.



### Meeting of mayors, local authorities and heads of border management agencies in the Liptako-Gourma region

**8-9 July, Niger:** In view of the multiple challenges facing the Liptako-Gourma region, cross-border cooperation has been recognized as an important element that should be reinforced through the Liptako-Gourma Authority (LGA) for the implementation of the Stabilization Facility. A meeting was held with mayors of border areas and heads of border management agencies of the three Member States (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) to discuss and define mechanisms for stronger cooperation, structural conflict prevention and increased regional integration.

The meeting aimed to integrate cross-border cooperation initiatives into the implementation of the stabilization programme of the Liptako-Gourma region, including taking stock of the implementation of border management policies and/or strategies in cross-border cooperation structures; defining and outlining a three-year action plan to support cross-border cooperation initiatives; and integrating climate security issues as a component of the scaling up phase of the Liptako-Gourma Region Stabilization Mechanism. The meeting took place ahead of the first Regional Steering Committee Meeting and official launch of the Liptako-Gourma Region Stabilization Mechanism.



### Towards a policy consensus: New partnership to focus on the future of Africa-Europe relations

**31 Aug:** The COVID-19 health crisis and its devastating socioeconomic impact calls for stronger multilateralism and increased efforts to deepen cooperation. More than ever, international action and solidarity are needed to address the human, health, economic and political repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Against this background, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the European Think Tanks Group (ETTG) and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) have joined forces to establish a forward-looking partnership aimed at advancing Africa-Europe relations and the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) – 2030 Agenda.

The group will organize three virtual expert roundtables based on the key pillars of the AU-EU partnership, namely: i) green transformation and climate change; ii) economic development, trade and the digital agenda; and iii) participatory and accountable governance, peace and security. The series will conclude with a high-level seminar in 2022 ahead of the next EU-AU Summit.

[Read more ►](#)



### Blog: Building climate resilience and hope in West and Central Africa

**18 Aug:** According to the World Bank, the pandemic has pushed an estimated 23 million people into poverty. In the Sahel region alone, home to over 300 million people – projected temperature increases of 3°C to 6°C are twice as fast as in any other part of the world. This increase is expected to exacerbate droughts, contribute to river flow declines, floods, heatwaves, locust infestations, agricultural losses, and recurrent food crises.

UNDP is actively partnering with regional institutions including the African Union, Economic Community of West African States and the Lake Chad Basin Commission, to address these and other prevalent challenges in the West and Central Africa region. A new blog post by Chika Chika Charles Aniekwe and Reshmi Theckethil explores how collective action and regional partnerships can build resilience of communities to disasters and climate change.

[Read more ►](#)



### AU and UNDP launch podcast series on youth innovation and entrepreneurship

**20 Aug:** Within the framework of the AU's "1 Million by 2021" initiative, the UNDP Regional Youth Project and the AU have designed a podcast series to facilitate increased dialogue, engagement and advocacy with a wide range of stakeholders involved in youth development and empowerment. The podcast series will serve as a platform to listen, learn and exchange ideas on how Africa can effectively accelerate youth empowerment and leverage Africa's economic potential embodied in its youth.

The series also aims to connect young people with Africa's thought leaders and influencers in the public and private sectors, while creating a virtual forum for unpacking key issues that are of interest to young people on the continent and in the diaspora. The first episode, on the topic "How will startups in Africa succeed?", featured a guest interview with Ifeyinwa Ugochukwu, CEO of the Tony Elumelu Foundation.

[Listen ►](#)



## Blog: Commodities will drive post-pandemic growth, but we must beware of the consequences

**30 Aug:** Primary commodity prices are going up, and based on the anticipated demand and supply, the likelihood of an upward trend is inevitable, writes Degol Hailu, UNDP Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development. In a bid to recover from the COVID-19-related recessions, countries will rely on mineral exports to generate tax revenues and foreign exchange.

However, if left unchecked, mining-related economic, social and environmental ills could potentially be severe, more so because the 81 countries classified as resource-dependent comprise half of the world's population and are also home to 70% of people living in extreme poverty. Demand for commodities will continue to grow, presenting us with an opportunity to recover from the global economic slowdown. Yet on the other hand, their extraction comes with a series of costs that hinder the achievement of the SDGs and calls for a rethinking of our consumption patterns.

[Read more ►](#)



## The ABC 2021 Innovation Challenge Spotlight: Team Sudan-South Sudan

**Aug:** The Africa Borderlands Centre's Innovation Challenge is a dedicated funding window to support borderland stakeholders in scaling impact, unlocking development finance, catalyzing behavioral change, improving the efficiency of social services, and exploring frontier technologies through social innovation. The UNDP South Sudan Accelerator Lab, with the support of the Peace and Community Cohesion (PaCC) and Access to Justice, Security and Human Rights Strengthening (A2JSHR) programmes, completed the community immersion field visits under the co-creation phase of the ABC 2021 Innovation Challenge.

The teams met with local communities along the South Sudan-Sudan border to better understand the context on the ground and the lived experiences of these communities. This co-creation and sensitization phase is critical to forming a deep connection with the border communities and to ensuring community ownership of the innovation. The community immersion field visits confirmed the assumption in the initial concept that local grassroots savings cooperatives/sanduks in borderland regions are utilized as communal means of saving and borrowing.

[What is Innovation Challenge? Watch the video ►](#)



## AfCFTA Youth Creative Competition

The Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA), in collaboration with UNDP, the AfCFTA Secretariat, Afrexim Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the International Trade Centre (ITC) have launched the AfCFTA Youth Creative Competition.

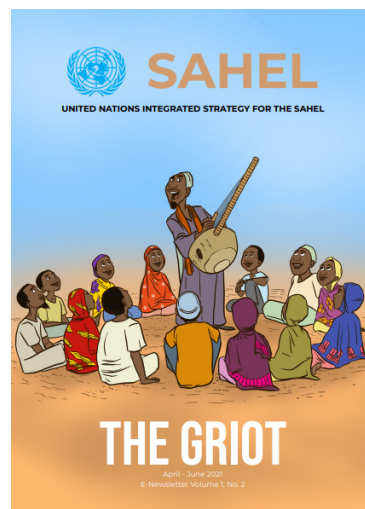
The aim of competition is to spread the understanding of what the AfCFTA is through creative and innovative youth-driven solutions. We are looking for the most informative and creative essays, infographics or animations on the theme: "The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): What is in it for young Africans?"

[Apply before 30 September ►](#)

# NEW Resources

The Regional Programme aims to make research findings **accessible, relevant and accurate** in how they reflect the conditions affecting vulnerable and marginalized groups across the continent.

UNISS Newsletter



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The Africa Borderlands Centre 2021 Innovation Challenge





# SEPTEMBER 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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2 SEPTEMBER

Official ceremony to mark the new partnership between SEforALL and UNDP

7-9 SEPTEMBER

Benchmarking visit to the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) by the AU, RECs and CSOs in Conflict Prevention and Promotion of Peace in Eastern and Southern Africa

9 SEPTEMBER

AU Day

9 SEPTEMBER

Open Dialogue Series – Leveraging Special Drawing Rights for COVID-19 recovery and the SDGs [Register](#)

14 SEPTEMBER

International Day for South-South Cooperation

14 SEPTEMBER

Report launch “Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Scaling up Made-in-Africa Solutions” [Register](#)

14-16 SEPTEMBER

High-level UN Women Forum on Risk-Informed Recovery and Resilience Action in the Lake Chad Basin, Yaoundé, Cameroon

21 SEPTEMBER (TBC)

UNGA side event “A Shot for All: Vaccines Delayed, Development Denied”

21 SEPTEMBER

International Day for Peace

22-24 SEPTEMBER

High-Level Dialogue on Energy

28-29 SEPTEMBER

Training on Sex, Age, and Disability Disaggregated Data

29 SEPTEMBER

UNGA side-event “Leveraging African Resources to Finance Sustainable Post-COVID Recovery”