



## A word from the Director

The year 2021 unearthed a new expression of global inequity: “vaccine nationalism.” As the pandemic shows increasingly complex waves and mutations, and its socioeconomic impact deepens, the efforts African countries make will remain central to success. Continued solidarity from the United Nations will also be key to attaining success beyond recovery, towards 2030.

Our work as the UN’s development agency will continue to support these efforts. All UNDP offices across the Africa region have scaled up action to support the COVID-19 response, and are also working in support of reducing growing inequalities: addressing the climate emergency, and maximizing the value of UNDP’s role as an integrator within the UN development system. One way to do this is by opening the way for new ideas on fighting pandemic shocks by providing cutting-edge knowledge products, and accelerating socioeconomic progress by establishing the basis for a stronger development future.

This edition of the RBA Digest takes a special look at the leading knowledge UNDP Africa has provided in 2021 - which will continue to make a difference for Africa in 2022 and beyond.

Ahunna Eziakonwa

## Spotlight on Africa’s development financing

The coming months and years will be dominated by the major challenge of finding resources for development in Africa. With economies around the world hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, looking beyond traditional sources of funding will be critical for our support to African countries and people in accelerating their development trajectory. The conversations and research initiated by the [African Economic Conference](#) in Cabo Verde in early December will help us think and act out of the box in 2022. [Read this op-ed on the impact of COVID-19 on African economies...](#)

### How can we accelerate Africa’s structural economic transformation? AfCFTA and the value chains for a Made in Africa revolution

To achieve the Africa We Want, and the SDGs, increased intra-African trade must be prioritized – not least because it will boost job creation, rising incomes, more diversified economies, and value – added based industrialization. At the heart of this is the essentiality of a “Made in Africa” revolution: one that will take Africa’s wealth and resources and make them work for Africa’s development. The stars are aligned as concrete opportunities are starting to emerge in the African Continental Free

Trade Area (AfCFTA). Deepening regional value chains will ensure that there is participation of both small and large enterprises. And knowing in which sectors these opportunities are emerging is a priceless asset. Together with the AfCFTA Secretariat, UNDP delved into this in the Second Edition of the Futures Report: “Which Value Chains for a Made in Africa revolution.”

[More information in the AfCFTA Futures Report 2021...](#)



### Supporting Africa’s climate ambition

The world is navigating a triple planetary crisis of climate change, loss of nature’s treasures, and destruction through pollution. The climate emergency, which is also inducing forced mobility, is now widespread, rapid, and intensifying, and many African countries, including island countries, are amongst the first affected. However, these countries are moving fast to react, and are leading the way as [climate action grows across the continent](#). UNDP’s work in supporting countries to make new nationally determined contributions or [financing those pledged](#) will be critical in supporting attainment of [Africa’s climate ambitions](#).

