

**Statement delivered by Dr. Natu El-Maamry Mwamba, Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of Finance of the United Republic of Tanzania on behalf of the
African Group by Tanzania
2023 HLPF - General Debate
(17 July 2023)**

Madam President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group aligns itself with the statement delivered by Cuba on behalf of G77 and China and would like to add the following remarks.

The African Group recognizes with concern the significant obstacles that lie ahead in Africa’s pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals and the ambitions outlined in the AU Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing geopolitical tensions, and the escalating risks of climate change pose a serious threat to our Continent's development. These challenges have pushed more people into poverty, widened inequalities, and increased vulnerabilities. We need to take decisive action to overcome these challenges and secure a brighter future for all.

Renewable energy has enormous promise for Africa's long-term development. Our continent is endowed with an abundance of sun, wind, hydro, and geothermal resources. According to the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, our renewable energy potential outnumbers current energy demands several times over. The economic and environmental benefits of embracing renewable energy are plainly evident, with solar power alone capable of providing Africa with 10 terawatts of electrical producing capability.

In this connection, the African Group emphasizes the need to ensure clean and affordable energy for all. This requires mobilizing more investment in numerous areas, including in digitalization, innovative technologies, and cross-border power systems. We need to work collectively to find innovative ways to mobilize the investment for a just energy transition in Africa.

Industry constitutes an important driver of economic transformation and growth, job creation and human development. The AU Action Plan for Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa, a flagship strategy of the AU Agenda 2063, states that "No country or region in the world has achieved prosperity and a decent socio-economic life for its citizens without the development of a robust industrial sector".

The economic opportunities provided by industry stimulate entrepreneurship and enterprise development, technological dynamism, and increased efficiency in productivity. Overall, manufacturing and industrial activities represent the strongest catalysts for promoting development and self-propelled economic transformation. Through industrialization, Africa aspires to realize higher economic growth and higher status of human development.

Lack of investment in clean water and appropriate sanitation has the potential to slow the pace of social and economic development. The most recently released SDG6 synthesis report clearly shows the lack of implementation, and countries need to enhance their efforts to this end, guided by the findings and recommendations of the report.

There is a need to invest more in providing potable water access points in urban and rural communities; improved sanitation facilities; and in ensuring appropriate waste management. Investing more in both soft and hard climate-proofed water infrastructure will ensure a sustained water supply, enhance adaptation to seasonal variability in precipitation and build resilience to climate change induced impacts, including slow-onset impacts. There is a need also to strengthen the capacity of Governments in monitoring, evaluating and reporting on progress made to increase access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation.

The African Continental Free Trade Area is a key strategy of the AU agenda 2063. Boosting intra Africa trade will trigger sustainable economic growth and shifting economies from the volatility associated with extractive exports towards industrialized goods and subsequently increase Africa's share of the global trade from the current level of 3% to 6%, within a decade.

We need to develop partnerships that support Africa's endeavors to promote, establish and strengthen regional value chains. We need partnerships that can help African producers add value to commodities and to enter and upgrade in export markets.

Madam President,

Let me now add a few pertinent issues on my national capacity.

Tanzania is wholly dedicated to fulfilling the targets delineated in the SDGs by 2030. Our objective is to expedite the implementation process in line with the commitments outlined in the AU 2063 Agenda. As a government, we are resolute in taking actions that optimize both domestic and external resources to effectively support the realization of the SDGs.

To achieve the SDG targets, the Government will prioritize investments in the social well-being, skills, and capabilities of its citizens, particularly focusing on youth, and remaining steadfast in our dedication to advancing the rights of women and girls and promote inclusive and meaningful participation to all groups of people including those most at risk. Digital technology and innovation is recognized to ultimately achieving the desired outcomes of the SDGs.

I extend my sincere gratitude for your attention and unwavering support.