

16 JULY REGION SESSION

Priorities and key messages from the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

- Forum highlights Africa's lagging progress and regression on several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Africa holds 55% of the global population living below the poverty line.
- Chronic hunger in Africa has increased from 15.1% in 2010 to 19.7% in 2022.
- Disproportionate impact of climate change on Africa, coupled with challenges in raising climate finance.
- Limited investment in SDGs due to a constrained revenue base, high capital costs, and a growing sovereign debt burden.
- Urgent need for accelerated and scaled efforts to realign Africa with SDG targets.
- Adoption of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan for Africa's Agenda 2063, upcoming Summit of the Future, the 4th Conference on Financing for Development and Social Summit next year as opportunities for optimism.

- Africa's priorities for the Forum and the Summit of the Future:
 1. Inclusion of Africa and the global South in international governance and decision-making.
 2. Accelerated implementation of the Global Digital Compact to bridge the digital divide and ensure secure digital ecosystems.
 3. Urgent reform of the global financial architecture to better serve Africa and developing countries.
 4. Revitalization of national frameworks and financial channels for integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.
 5. Advancement of the UN Secretary-General's efforts to close the SDG financing gap through the proposed SDG stimulus.
 6. Enhancement of the policy environment for sustainable finance and fostering innovations in climate finance.
 7. Promotion of just transitions and investment in early warning systems and climate literacy.
 8. Substantial budget allocations for poverty reduction, addressing gender inequalities, and supporting women and youth.

9. Concrete actions to leverage the youth demographic dividend through increased investments in education, nutrition, and health.
 10. Utilization of the African Continental Free Trade Area and the global climate agenda to sustainably harness natural resources and boost food security.
 11. Strengthened global solidarity and efforts to ensure peace, good governance, and development.
 12. Transformation and modernization of statistical systems to enhance access to quality, disaggregated data for SDG actions.
- Appreciation for support from the African Union Commission, UN organizations and development partners.
 - Call for increased and coordinated support for timely delivery on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.