

Annual Results
Report 2022



Annual Results Report 2022 of the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACBI	AfCFTA Country Business Index	ILS	International Labour Standard
ACMAD	Africa Climate and Meteorological Application Centre	IMRF	International Migration Review Forum
AfCFTA	Africa Continental Free Trade Area	JLMP	Joint Labour Migration Programme
ACMI	African Carbon Markets Initiative	JS	Joint Secretariat
AGN	African Group of Negotiators	LNOB	Leave No One Behind
AKMH	Africa Knowledge Management Hub	LSSC	Local Shared Service Centre
AMHEWAS	Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System	NTB	Non-Tariff Barriers
ARFSD	Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development	OCA	Our Common Agenda
AU	African Union	OIBC	Opportunity and Issue-Based Coalition
AUC	African Union Commission	OMT	Operations Management Teams
BOS	Business Operations Strategy	PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
CBA	Cost Benefit Analysis	PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
CCA	Common Country Analysis	PSG	Peer Support Group
CF	Cooperation Framework	R-BOS	Regional Business Operations Strategy
COP	UNFCCC Conference of the Parties	RC	Resident Coordinator
CoP	Community of Practitioners	RCO	Resident Coordinator Office
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics	RCP	Regional Collaborative Platform
DCO	United Nations Development Coordination Office	REC	Regional Economic Community
DI	Disability Inclusion	RLMP	Regional Labour Migration Policy
DMFAS	Debt Management and Financial Analysis System	R-OMT	Regional Operations Management Team
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	SADC	Southern African Development Community
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	SE	Special Envoy of the Secretary-General
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration	TF	Task Force
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment	UN	United Nations
GFANZ	Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	UNDS	United Nations Development System
IFF	Illicit Financial Flows	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development	UNISS	United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel
		UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel



Executive Summary

This annual report of the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) presents an overview of results achieved towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from January to December 2022. It is a veritable information source supporting Member States to strengthen their accountability and oversight function on implementation of the Secretary-General's regional reforms and to inform the progress in achieving system-wide and inter-agency cooperation to advance the SDGs. The report outlines results principally on the four areas identified as priorities for 2022: Data and statistics; Climate action; Macroeconomic transformation; and Energy and digital transitions. Highlights include the following:

Strengthened capacities on data and statistics for SDGs including through the "[Africa UN Data for Development Platform](#)" equipping 31 countries with over 160 SDG indicators, compared to 22 countries in 2021; as well as the [UN Africa COVID-19 hub](#) - a one-stop-shop for data and information resources on response and impact related to recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa.

Securing sound support on [Climate action](#) under the leadership of the Egyptian Presidency of COP-27, with the reinvigorated role of the the Resident Coordinator (RC) and the support of the UN country team in Egypt, the African Group of Negotiators, and the African Union Commission. Results emerged on just energy transitions, climate finance, adaptation and mitigation – and the historic decision to create a loss and damage fund.

The UN system cohered in support for the [Transforming Education Summit \(TES\)](#) spotlighting Africa's unique context articulated in the: "[Education in Africa: Placing Equity at the Heart of Policy](#)" report.

Acceleration of implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) saw a major push – with renewed momentum on national implementation strategies, and a focus on inclusivity – strengthening readiness of women and youth exporters to seize the One Africa Market.

[Digital transition](#) capabilities were enhanced including through the Connected African Girl Coding Camp – providing over 25,000 African girls and young women (12-25 years old) in 52 countries with skills to engage in the African digital economy.

And on [Peace, Security and Rule of Law](#), the Sahel saw new progress on stabilization, and a UNISS Peace and Security pillar in UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

Ahead to 2023, the agency of Africa's people, its institutions and governments; acceleration and rescuing the SDGs and impact will be the critical drivers of RCP action. With this approach, the Regional Collaborative Platform (RCP) will further strengthen its offer to better support accompanying African countries towards recovery with sustainable patterns of growth and development.



Chapter 1

Introduction

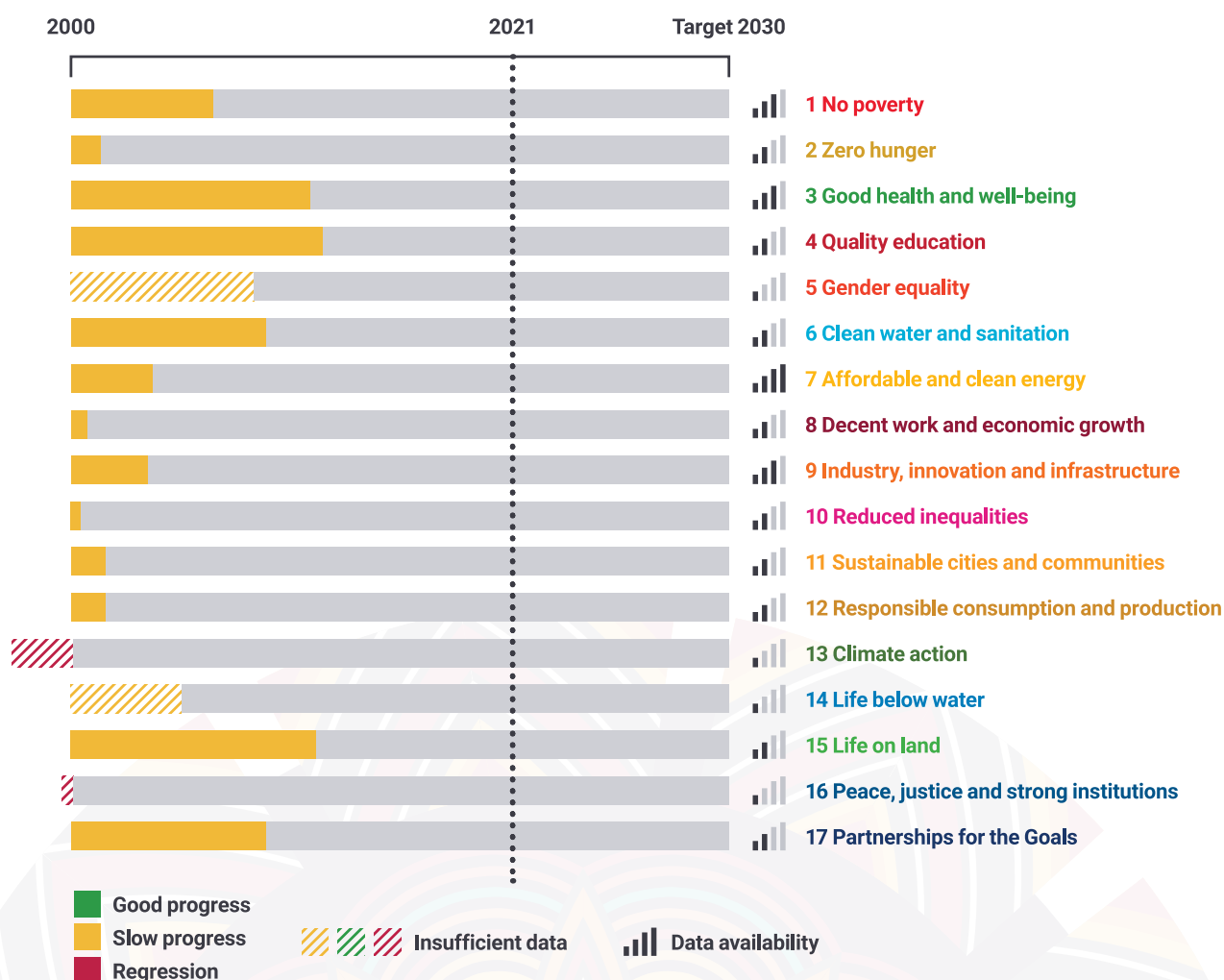
The 2022 UNDP 2022 Human Development Report confirms a global regression in human development – now persistent for two years in a row. It also confirms that we are back to 2016 poverty levels. UNCTAD (2022) reports that another 100 million people have been pushed back into extreme poverty in Africa.

It is amidst this polycrisis context that we present the results report of the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform.

Africa made the most progress on SDGs 3 (good health and well-being), 4 (quality education), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 15 (life on land), and 17 (partnerships). However, the region made the least progress on SDGs 2 (zero hunger), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), and 12 (responsible consumption and production); and regressed on SDGs 13 (climate action) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), while slowing down on SDG 4 (quality education for all).

Snapshot on SDG progress so far in Africa in 2022

Source: [Africa UN Data for Development Platform](#)





Africa has recorded progress on **15 of the 17 SDGs since 2000** (building on the UN Millennium Development Goals). However, the current pace of progress is insufficient to achieve the SDGs



Major challenges remain for Goal 13 “Climate action” and Goal 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” **where the continent has regressed**



Moderate progress recorded on Goal 3 “Good Health and Well-being”, Goal 4 “Education”, Goal 15 “Life on Land”, Goal 17 “Partnership for the Goals”



Positive development in terms of data availability in African countries. However, it remains poor on Goals 5, 13, 14 and 16

1. About the Africa Regional Collaborative Platform

The Africa RCP was launched in December 2020 as the revitalized mechanism gathering 28 UN entities at the regional level to address transboundary challenges, and support RCs and UNCTs to advance on Agendas 2030 and 2063 through provision of policy advice, technical assistance, and advocacy.

For the most part of 2022, the Africa RCP had eight (8) Opportunity/Issue Based Coalitions (O/IBCs) serving as the main platforms of substantive work, pooling UN system-wide expertise in an agile and timely manner to respond to requests. The Africa RCP also has three (3) Task Forces (TFs)¹ dealing with Knowledge Management, Enhanced transparency and results-based management, and Common back offices.

During the Africa RCP 2022 Annual Retreat in Dakar (17-18 November) and to align with the principles of flexibility of the platform, the Africa RCP reviewed its O/IBCs reconfiguration in order to strengthen targeted responsiveness and in line with the trends and needs of the continent. The newly reconfigured Africa RCP as of November 2022 comprise of 6 O/IBCs moving forward.



1 **OIBC 1:** Strengthened integrated data and statistical systems for sustainable development; **OIBC 2:** Ensuring effective and efficient macroeconomic management and accelerated inclusive, economic transformation and diversification; **OIBC 3:** Harnessing demographic dividends through investments in youth and women’s empowerment (health, education and employment) for sustainable development; **OIBC 4:** Leveraging new technologies and enabling digital transitions for inclusive growth and development; **OIBC 5:** Fostering climate action and resilience; **OIBC 6:** Peace, security, and the respect of human rights; **OIBC 7:** Forced displacement and migration; and **OIBC 8:** Sub-regional initiatives and strategies

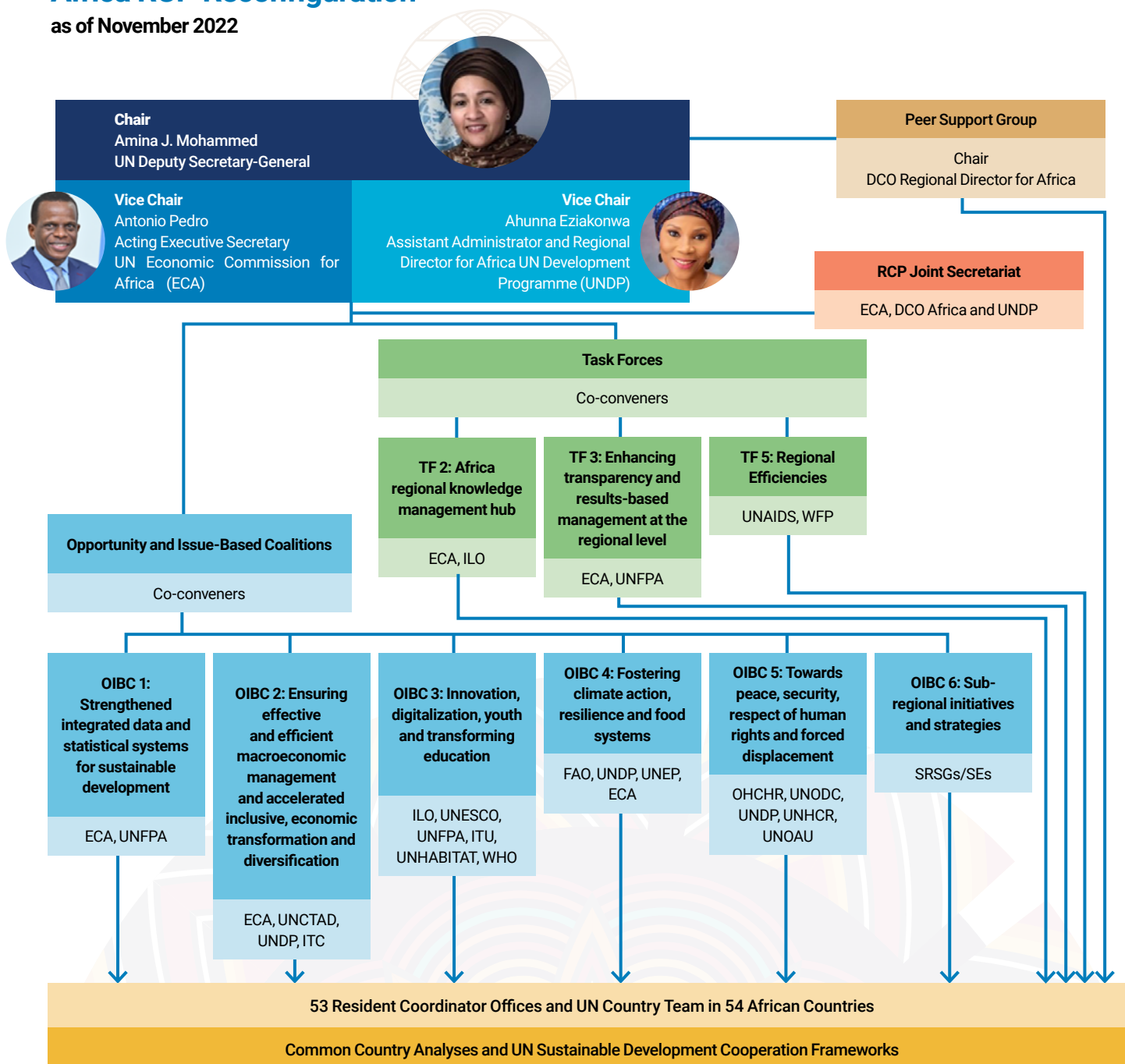
2. Mandate

As part of the broader reform of the UN development system, the UN Secretary-General recommended to reposition the structures and assets of the UN at the regional level to promote collaboration and foster joined-up action for the 2030 Agenda. As a result, and pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 2020/23 and General Assembly resolution 74/297, previous regional coordination mechanisms across Africa transitioned into the new RCP.

The Africa RCP is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and co-chaired by two Vice-Chairs, the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Regional Director for Africa of the UN Development Programme (UNDP). The RCP Secretariat is jointly led by ECA, the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) Regional Office for Africa and UNDP.

Africa RCP Reconfiguration

as of November 2022



The Africa Regional Collaborative Platform Annual Retreat 2022

The 2022 Annual Retreat of the Africa RCP was held from 17-18 November 2022 in Dakar (Senegal) under the leadership of co-Vice Chairs Ms. Ahunna EZIAKONWA, UNDP Regional Director for Africa; and Mr. Antonio PEDRO, UNECA Executive Secretary a.i. The retreat enabled to assess progress on accelerating integrated support to advance the implementation of both Agendas 2063 and 2030, consider an effective response to global shocks, and how to make the RCP more fit for purpose, including in the context of AU-UN collaboration.

74 participants attended in-person and remotely, including Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, Regional Directors, Deputy Regional Directors, Team Leaders and the RCP Joint Secretariat.





Chapter 2

Regional challenges, opportunities and responses



i. Regional Challenges

Africa faces profound shocks including rising public debt and a cost of living crisis characterized by food and fertilizers, energy and fuel prices hikes caused by implications of the **war in Ukraine**. Countries depending on food imports from the Russian Federation and Ukraine face disruptions in wheat and grain imports - draining government coffers, and exposing increased vulnerability to food and energy insecurity. Progress was made through the UN Secretary-General-led Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSI) – but the systemic challenges of building resilience in food systems remain a critical priority for Africa.

The impact of the war in Ukraine comes on the heels of the **COVID-19** pandemic which represented a significant set-back in terms of progress towards achieving the SDGs. Against this backdrop, 50 million Africans went into extreme poverty, affected millions of school-going children on formal education and disproportionately impacting on women and girls, unleashing a shadow pandemic of domestic violence and unwanted pregnancies. Despite considerable improvement in school enrolment, 288 million school-age children are not enrolled in school, especially in countries in conflict. And while leaders in the global north declare the pandemic “over”, in Africa only 29 percent of people are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

The **climate change emergency** further dims prospects causing significant loss and damage to Africa’s development gains, even if the continent only contributes 3 percent of global greenhouse emissions. More ambition is needed to implement climate and emissions reductions commitments including on G20 financing, with key aspects of the Glasgow Pact still unmet such as doubling adaptation finance to \$40 billion annually, the long-delayed promise of \$100 billion a year in climate finance for developing countries. As such, Africa struggles with transitioning towards the adoption

of low carbon technologies, and shift to renewables for climate-resilient development trajectories. The UN Secretary General’s new Adaptation Pipeline Accelerator is anticipated to unlock the flow of finance through a new business model of cooperation.

The **low energy access**, with 600 million Africans awaiting access to electricity, is holding back Africa’s attainment of the SDGs and Agenda 2063’s ambition to develop an energy system based on sustainable energy sources.

In the Horn of Africa, **drought**, food insecurity, malnutrition and growing pressure on natural resources has 36.4 million people affected by the most prolonged drought in recent history (with 24.1 million affected in Ethiopia, 7.8 million in Somalia and 4.5 million in Kenya). Of these, over 9 million are women of reproductive age (15 to 49 years).² About 23.75 million people **cannot access enough water** for drinking, cooking and cleaning or improved sanitation and hygiene across the Horn (13 million in Ethiopia, 6.4 million in Somalia and 4.35 million in Kenya). Droughts cause famine for millions of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their host communities. In Ethiopia alone, around 420,000 people have been internally displaced by drought since 2021.

Poverty is on the rise and in 2023, nearly 7 percent of the world’s population, or 574 million people – most of them in Africa – are estimated to live on less than \$2.15 a day. The African Development Banks’ Macroeconomic Outlook forecasts Africa’s economic growth at 4 percent in 2023 – above the average of advanced economies, but still far below the 7-10 percent required to get the SDGs on track.

Out of 54 lower-income countries facing a high risk of debt distress, 24 are in Africa, including

 2

OCHA ROSEA HOA Drought Overview (November 2022)

the biggest economies, Nigeria and Egypt. About two-thirds of African countries increased their domestic policy interest rates in 2022 to curb inflation and ease pressure on exchange rates. Economic recovery, industrialization, value addition and economic diversification are now urgent policy imperatives – as reaffirmed by the AU ExtraOrdinary Summit in Niamey in November 2022, which called for a shift towards a resource-led industrialization in Africa.

Attaining peace and security across Africa is needed as 2022 witnessed four attempted or successful military coups: Burkina Faso in January and September, Guinea-Bissau in February and São Tomé and Príncipe in November. Since 2019, there have been 14 successful or attempted military coups, concentrated in West Africa and the Sahel region. As there will be heads of state or national legislature elections in 17 countries in 2023, the risk of political protests, mass demonstrations and strikes remains – and will hold through 2024, where a further 13 nations will go to the polls.

ii. Opportunities in the region

The **Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)** if fully implemented is intended to lift 100 million people out of poverty – bringing jobs, raising incomes, and sparking a made in Africa revolution. It will accelerate structural economic transformation, strengthen Africa's capacity for value-added exports, and increase incomes for women. Progress in trading on AfCFTA terms was made through launching the Guided Trade Initiative in 2021 – with eight countries leading the way. Under the leadership of H.E President Nana Akuffo Addo of Ghana, the January 2023 Africa Prosperity Dialogue compact committed business leaders to moving the AfCFTA from ambition to action – in a grand convening supported by the Africa RCP. This compact has since been adopted by African Union Heads of State and Government at the 36th Ordinary Session of African Union Heads of State and Government.

To bring the AfCFTA promise to life, governments must remove policy and legal bottlenecks, invest in the infrastructure of trade, and ensure inclusivity through special initiatives for women and youth.

Transforming education through reallocation of resources towards skills development, improved teacher-training quality, applicable and localized curricula, and market-relevant trainings that increase job-creation opportunities for young people are opportunities for Africa to better equip itself for the SDGs. Africa can reimagine education and get ahead with the skills of transformation.

The agreement to establish a **“loss and damage” fund** at COP-27 must now be implemented to enable Africa getting a just and equitable energy transition that secures Africa's food security, agricultural productivity, and industrial advancement. The Secretary-General's planned Climate Ambition Summit on the way to COP-28 will provide additional impetus for pro-Africa results on climate change.

Building on the UN's **Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP)** initiatives in furtherance to African Union priorities on the same, presents an opportunity to invest more in ending need across Africa.



Chapter 3

Advancing the United Nations Secretary-General's reforms at the regional level

The five pillars of the Secretary-General's regional reform in Africa are **largely on track with progress recorded in all aspects** in 2022.

Progress	Pillar
i. Africa RCP institutional structures	
	<p>Africa RCP working mechanisms: Africa RCP Joint Secretariat fully constituted. Has effective work methods. Convenes weekly, holds annual retreats and effectively backstops the O/IBCs and co-Vice Chairs.</p>
	<p>Peer Support Group management: fully functioning PSG support to RCs/UNCTs in designing their Common Country Analyses and Cooperation Frameworks and provides quality assurance. In 2022, 17 Cooperation Frameworks were supported.</p>
	<p>OIBCs Management: OIBCs were rationalized in line with major development trends in Africa, SDGs and Agenda 2063 imperatives. RCP offer for 2023 was enriched and validated by RCs at a Planning Meeting prior to RCP annual meeting. Will be considered for sign off in Niamey at Annual RCP meeting.</p>
ii. Data and Statistics	
	<p>The Africa UN Data for Development Platform and UN Africa COVID-19 hub are both currently fully operational.</p>
iii. Enhanced Transparency	
	<p>As a cross-cutting and core element of the UN regional reform, increased UN system-wide collaboration and guidance to speak with one voice are in progress to reach its targets, through coherent and consistent communication on various thematic issues such as gender equality and women's empowerment, disability inclusion, and crisis management.</p>
iv. Regional Operations Management Team	
	<p>The Regional Business Operations Strategy (R-BOS) document was signed off by the RCP Vice-Chairs in 2022. The Regional BOS is contributing to the implementation of efficiency initiatives in the region, in addition to country level BOS(es).</p>
v. Regional Knowledge Management Platform	
	<p>A one-stop online platform for: (i) roster of expertise; (ii) Communities of practice; and (iii) Africa Knowledge Management Hub (AKMH) currently being finalized by the RCP's Task Force 2 and is expected to be launched in 2023.</p>



Chapter 4

Highlights of System-Wide Results at Regional Level in Support of RCs and UNCTs

A. Priority Area 1 – Data and Statistics

OIBC 1 – Strengthened integrated data & statistical systems for sustainable development



i. Africa UN Data for Development Platform

In 2022, the Africa UN Data for Development Platform was applied to monitor progress, and guide decision-making on sustainable development. Additional data points and more indicators were added on Agendas 2030 and 2063 – allowing for: i) improved data availability in almost all African countries since the portal launch; ii) ten or more indicators added for eleven countries by the end of 2022; iii) 31 countries having over 160 SDGs indicators with data (in 2022) compared to 22 countries in 2021; and iv) a decrease in the number of African countries with no data (25 SDGs indicators in 2022 compared to 26 in 2021). Overall, the coalition enhanced monitoring and reporting on implementation of the 2030 Agenda. To be effective, it is crucial that the portal is integrated with platforms being used for national development plans.

ii. Capacity-building support to UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs)

To enhance use of data knowledge, capacity for data collection and analysis at national and regional levels to help identify who is being left behind, OIBC 1 conducted three trainings capacitating 60 UNCT members, RCO Data Officers and Economists on SDG progress monitoring in Uganda, Nigeria and Madagascar to strengthen data systems for the CCA, Cooperation Frameworks, Country Programme Documents and SDGs monitoring.

This work is also key for investing in data systems in Africa to make robust data available to monitor progress on SDGs and Agenda 2063, and for a shift to the culture and infrastructure of an information society/economy.

iii. Support to African Union Commission (AUC) on continent-wide Data and Statistics

OIBC 1, working with the AUC Statistics Division, enabled strengthening of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics under the umbrella of the Strategy for Harmonization of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA). Similarly, technical assistance was provided to support Digital Census in eight countries. Avenues were explored to select an AU Data Champion at the level of a Head of State/Government to promote data culture and strengthen data capacity in Member States. In 2023, OIBC 1 is expected to launch the **Africa UN Data and Statistics Strategy** aiming to improve coordination, utilization and ensure effective support to statistical systems at country and regional levels, in alignment with the UN Data Strategy.

B. Priority Area 2 – Macroeconomic Transformation

OIBC 2 – Ensuring effective & efficient macroeconomic management and accelerated inclusive economic transformation & diversification



i. AfCFTA implementation advanced, expanded and strengthened

OIBC 2³ promoted the AfCFTA to policymakers, the private sector, SMEs, parliamentarians, non-state actors, women and youth across Africa – focused on accelerating implementation so that the benefits manifest. For example, on the margins of the 8th Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-8), Africa Member States called upon the UN to scale up support towards establishment, strengthening of institutional and regulatory frameworks that would facilitate implementation of the AfCFTA; and promote value chains to enhance competitiveness and diversification under the AfCFTA.

O/IBC 2 responded to UNCT requests by: providing dedicated strategic and advisory support to Regional Economic Communities and African countries⁴ to develop national strategies; working with RCOs and UNCTs in ten countries⁵ to formulate and validate national AfCFTA strategies; supporting implementation of validated AfCFTA strategies in five countries through capacity-building⁶; supporting four governments⁷ on export diversification and industrialization strategies as part of AfCFTA implementation; and rolling out the inclusive AfCFTA Country Business Index (ACBI) in 13 countries.⁸

OIBC 2 working with UN Women organized the first ever Women in Trade Conference convened under the leadership of H.E Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of Tanzania – offering a platform for women to articulate how the AfCFTA Protocol on Women in Trade should be designed. In addition, the flagship report – *The Engine of Trade in Africa* – jointly produced by UN Women, AfCFTA Secretariat and UNDP was also launched, detailing specific policy options women believe should guide a #HERAfCFTA approach to implementation. In 2023, OIBC 2 will support seven countries⁹ to formulate and validate their AfCFTA strategies and will continue with capacity building on identifying AfCFTA market niches and value chain mappings, integrating into cross-border value chains.

ii. Engagement and support on debt management

OIBC 2 worked with partners to help strengthen countries' capacity to record, monitor and report effectively on public debt – resulting in improvements in availability of comprehensive, accurate and timely information on public debt to support policy decisions and risk management as well as mitigate risks to debt sustainability, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on public finances. It also contributed to improved debt transparency and facilitated implementation

3 Co-convened by ECA, UNCTAD and UNDP.

4 In 2022: Chad, Comoros, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda and Tunisia.

5 2022: Djibouti, Chad, Comoros, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, and Tunisia.

6 Burkina Faso, Congo, Guinea, Niger and Togo.

7 Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Malawi and Niger.

8 Angola, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia.

9 2023: Algeria, Benin, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, and Mozambique.

of emergency financing and debt moratorium measures adopted by the international community as a response to the crisis.

iii. Support on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs)

OIBC 2 delivered online, in-person and hybrid technical training sessions, national, regional technical and policy workshops in four countries¹⁰ aimed to assist national experts in estimating Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) based on the UNCTAD Guidelines on Statistical Measurement for Tax and Commercial IFFs.

From February to May 2022, hybrid national training workshops on statistical measurement of IFFs were conducted in an additional six countries¹¹ and in June, pilot activities for measuring IFFs in Africa were undertaken and 12 pioneering countries presented their progress and main challenges for measuring SDG indicator 16.4.1. This work resulted in a mapping of national agencies working on IFFs and the establishment of national technical working groups, including relevant agencies, training of national experts and first estimations of IFFs for SDG 16.4.1 in several countries. It further resulted in an action plan to address existing data, capacity and regulatory constraints to ensure sustainability of a nationally-owned process of compiling IFF statistics for better evidence-based policy formulation in countries. Consequently, national stakeholders in pilot countries gained a better understanding on what constitutes IFFs, data to use and how to measure them, national mobilization and commitment. This led to a first estimator of IFFs using a standardised methodology, which will feed into evidence-based policy actions to curb IFFs.

10 Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ghana, and Zambia.

11 Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, and South Africa.

OIBC 3 – Harnessing demographic dividends, gender and youth for development



i. COVID-19 recovery

In 2022, several inter-agency policy briefs and studies were conducted by the UN development system to estimate the direct or indirect effects of COVID-19 on Demographic Dividend pillars, including documentation of best practices in Africa related to these pillars prior to and in the context of COVID-19. A total of 29 initiatives were collected to inform policy actions and investments on building forward better to ensure green, resilient and inclusive recovery.

During this period, several working papers were also developed on the relationship between demography, peace and security in the Sahel, including six country case studies, two statistical modelling, two policy briefs, a synthesis book, organization of national consultations and a session on demography, peace, and security on the margins of the 21st edition of the Bamako Forum. The Africa RCP facilitated South-South cooperation through support for convening of a BRICS session on the impact of COVID-19 on demography.

ii. Transforming Education

Through OIBC 3¹², the efforts of 46 UNCTs were consolidated to influence the Transforming Education Summit (TES), galvanizing country level support to spotlight the state of education in Africa and working with the AUC to amplify key findings from national consultations. A declaration on priority actions for transforming education in Africa was presented.

OIBC 3 in partnership with regional stakeholders and the African Union co-organized high-level events on the margins of the TES and the 77th United Nations General Assembly in New York on 20 September 2022, focused on 'transforming education' in Africa. The results included a request for the AU Assembly to make "Transforming Education in Africa" the AU theme of the Year 2023.



12 Focus is on Harnessing demographic dividends through investments in youth and women's empowerment (Health, education, and employment) for SDGs.

C. Priority Area 3 – Digital Transformation

OIBC 4 – Leveraging new technologies & enabling digital transitions for inclusive growth and development



i. Promoting coherence and inclusion in national digital transformation strategies

Working with the Infrastructure Division of the AUC, OIBC 4¹³ supported UNCTs in 17 countries¹⁴ with technical assistance to design digital strategies; assess policies on technological solutions; address gaps in SDGs data; build capacity for use of big data; and data analysis for socio-economic recovery. In Malawi, OIBC 4 mapped digital initiatives and ICT infrastructure, identifying gaps in public service delivery. A white paper on leveraging new technologies and digital transformation for inclusive growth and development, as well as drawing lessons from COVID-19 responses was also prepared; and advisory services were provided to UNCTs on supporting Resident Coordinators and their teams to address digital transformation-related needs.

ii. Digital Transformation

The Girls Camp code initiative between the AUC, UN WOMEN, ECA, UNESCO, UNICEF and ITU continued to hold coding camps to close the Gender Digital Divide by providing fourth Industrial Revolution skills to girls and young women aged 12-25 – making them fully involved in the African digital economy. Furthermore, the Initiative supports SDG 5: *Gender Equality and Empowering Women and Girls*.

Hybrid coding camps were held in Senegal, Namibia, and Tanzania through partnerships with host governments, UN agencies, private companies, and CSOs. Over 25,000 African girls were reached in 52 countries under the Connected African Girl Coding Camp. There were 240 innovative projects developed by trainees in the camp, 60 of which won excellence awards.¹⁵

iii. Exploring information sharing and exchange across regions

OIBC 4 facilitated the first inter-regional information sharing and exchange with the UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia (UNDTG4ECA) in November 2022 to share good practices in convening UN agencies around digital transformation in the region, express challenges faced and explore future opportunities for collaboration.

13 Co-convened by ITU, UN-Habitat and WHO.

14 Including Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, and Zimbabwe.

15 Ethiopia, Burundi, Cote D'Ivoire, DRC, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Sudan, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

D. Priority Area 4 – Climate action

OIBC 5 – Fostering climate action and resilience



i. Support for COP-27

Following requests from the COP-27 Egypt Presidency, the Resident Coordinator in Egypt, the AUC and the African Group of Negotiators, to support the 27th session of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP-27) OIBC 5¹⁶ set up four workstreams on: Just Energy Transition; Climate Finance; Adaptation and Mitigation; and Capacity Building. On Adaptation and Mitigation, an inter-agency Report on Good Practices in Climate Action in Africa¹⁷ was launched on Africa Day at COP-27; and a Policy brief on Pathways to Transformative Climate Change Adaptation in Africa was also produced.

Technical support provided to negotiators, Addis Ababa-based diplomats and the AUC allowed for cohesion towards a Common African Position at COP-27 and increased understanding of the nuances of the common position on just energy transition, and the need for country specific transition plans based around the imperative of achieving universal energy access.

Continued work is supporting implementation of COP-27 outcomes including on the loss and damage facility working through the newly established 'Transitional Committee' – so that it can be launched at COP-28 in the United Arab Emirates in 2023.

As part of its efforts to support implementation, monitoring and review of progress of the Programme of Action for implementation of the Sendai Framework in Africa (PoA) adopted by AU Heads of State and Government in 2017, OIBC-5 provided support to the organization of regular meetings of the Africa Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction, which resulted in concrete recommendations to accelerate Sendai Framework implementation in Africa.

ii. Promoting Just Energy Transitions in the African context

OIBC-5 provided support to the AU to develop a Common Africa Position on Just Energy Transition which was adopted by the AU's Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Infrastructure, Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism, and eventually became the Common African Position.

In May 2022, OIBC-5 worked with Sustainable Energy for All¹⁸ to develop the Kigali Declaration on Just and Equitable Transitions¹⁹, which reflected the concerns of countries, particularly in relation to the means to achieve a just, fair and equitable transition, and the way resources such as natural gas could be harnessed as intermediary solutions to facilitate the transition.

16 Focus is on Fostering action on climate change, strengthening natural resources governance, resilience and enabling energy transitions for sustainable development

17 [Good Practices in Climate Action in Africa](#)

18 [Sustainable Energy for All](#)

19 [Kigali Declaration on Just and Equitable Transitions](#)

iii. Climate Financing

The Coalition convened climate finance roundtables in Addis Ababa and resulted in a compendium of ten promising projects²⁰ highlighting the potential private sector investments from the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) and other potential investments built especially on projects from the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) portfolio.

The COP-27 Presidency organised a pre-COP-27 finance meeting in Cairo and received support of OIBC-5. The pre-COP-27 finance meeting aimed to address issues around innovative climate financing for Africa, exploring means through which African countries can mobilise innovative financing mechanisms. This led to the Cairo Communique²¹. The outcomes from the pre-COP-27 meeting contributed in shaping discussions during the Finance Day at COP-27, which focussed on some key initiatives of particular relevance for African countries:

- **Sustainable Debt:** a focus on KPIs to align climate and debt issuances/insertion of debt standstill clauses in response to climate disasters/facilitating debt for climate adaptation swaps;
- **Reducing the cost of green borrowing:** increased concessional financing through Multilateral Development Banks or increased deployment of blended finance resources to crowd in the private sector.

OIBC-5 supported the development of carbon market initiatives to address capacity issues on the continent and also create more awareness on supply and demand. At COP-27, ECA and the Congo Basin

Climate Commission²² presented the harmonised protocol and regional registry for carbon credits for countries of the region. The African Carbon Markets Initiative (ACMI) was also presented as a means to improve engagement between potential supply from African countries and demand from investors.

iv. Building the climate and disaster resilience regional architecture

OIBC-5 provided support to implement the Africa Roadmap for improving availability, access and use of disaster risk information for Early Warning and Early Action, including within transboundary risk management. This resulted in the establishment and operationalization of the Africa Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) Situation Room at the AUC, IGAD Disaster Operation Situation Room at the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, and Climate Advisory Situation Room at the Africa Climate and Meteorological Application Centre (ACMAD) in Niamey, Niger.

The situation rooms will strengthen early warning efforts on the continent and mitigate the impact of disasters and climate risk to vulnerable populations. Support is ongoing to establish and operationalize similar systems in other Regional Economic Communities, including the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The Africa roadmap on early warning systems will be plugged at national level in support of RCs and UNCTs to address DRR and climate risk efforts in Angola, Malawi and Tanzania.



20 UNECA. (November 2020). Climate Champions' Extended Compendium of Climate-Related Initiatives and African Roundtable: Catalysing climate finance and investment flows towards building climate resilience in Africa

21 Cairo Communique. International Cooperation Forum and Meeting of African Ministers of Finance, Economy and Environment, Cairo, Egypt

22 One of 3 climate commissions established under the aegis of the AU

E. Other Priority Areas

OIBC 6 – Towards peace, security, and respect for human rights



i. Strengthened capabilities of regional stakeholders in tackling drug trafficking and transnational organized crime

OIBC 6 conducted a joint mission to Guinea-Bissau, carrying out a gap analysis on strengthening the fight against drug trafficking and transnational organized crime – supplementing government efforts in developing a counter-narcotics programme, and strengthening the capacity of 50 drugs data focal points (ten women) in producing, collecting and sharing drugs-related data, leading to doubling response rate to UN-mandated data-collection tools from four UNODC Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) submissions in 2020 to 12 in 2022, and from zero Individual Drug Seizures (IDS) data collection submissions in 2021 to 2 in 2022.

ii. Support to Political Transitions and the Rule of Law

OIBC 6 supported the AU to co-create the Africa Inclusive Transitions Facility (AfSIT). This will allow for better understanding of the development drivers of complex political transitions – supporting countries and regional institutions to share experiences, create synergies with ongoing efforts and ensure complementarity.

OIBC 6 provided technical and financial support to the Forum on Unconstitutional Changes of

Government in Africa which produced the Accra Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government, which was adopted by the AU Extra-Ordinary Summit in Malabo in May 2022.

Through implementation of the Regional Stabilization Facility initiatives in the Lake Chad Basin and Liptako-Gourma areas, O/IBC 6 worked to achieve speedy, large-scale rehabilitation and reconstruction in 46 local communities; 31 under the Lake Chad Regional Stabilization Facility and 15 under the Liptako-Gourma Stabilization Facility. The construction of health centres, security posts, schools, houses, drinking water facilities and marketplaces across target communities energized the local economies and revived the social fabric.

Because of these investments, more than 400,000 (54 percent women) formerly displaced people returned to their homes after years of displacement. Nearly 30,000 people were able to achieve access to quality health care in both regions. A total of 452 essential social service infrastructures were built, rehabilitated, equipped and handed over to local authorities or communities, including schools, health centres, potable water points, draining canals, ambulances, etc. A total of 132 of these facilities were equipped with solar power, with 2,025 permanent housing units constructed in Nigeria.

iii. Implementation of the AU Peace, Security and Rule of Law Key Flagship Initiatives

OIBC 6 worked on Prevention and Responding to Violent Extremism (PVE) in Africa and developed research on PVE in prisons. The finalization of the study, *“Perceptions, Vulnerabilities and Prevention: Violent Extremism Threat Assessment in Selected Regions of the Southern Libyan Borderlands and North-Western Nigeria”* was undertaken and launched in September 2022. The study was disseminated at Geneva Peace Week in 2022. The PVE podcast series #Exploring Extremism²³ was launched.

OIBC 6 partnered with Small Arms Survey for the Southern Libya study; and NEEM and Elman Peace Centre for the Journey to Extremism 2.0 – to inform a regional strategy to combat hate speech, supported capacity building activities on PVE in prisons in coastal West Africa and trained 150 prisons officials (18 women). The findings were presented at the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

iv. Respect of international human rights/humanitarian law and protection of civilians

OIBC 6 organized a series of trainings to strengthen the AU and Regional Economic Communities' capacity in integrating human rights in early warning, and test the draft course manual on human rights early warning and conflict prevention. Similar support was also provided to COMESA's Early Warning and Conflict Prevention Systems.

In Ethiopia, OIBC 6 together with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission conducted a joint investigation into alleged violations of human rights, humanitarian and refugee law committed by all parties to the conflict. Consequently, OIBC 6 supports implementation of recommendations issued by the Joint OHCHR-EHRC investigation team and together with the EHRC, continues to conduct regional consultations on Transitional Justice across the country. Dialogues were held with 717 individuals (282 women) including religious and traditional leaders, representatives of CSOs, victims including IDPs, and conflict-affected members of communities to map out existing conflict resolution mechanisms, consolidate views and aspirations of affected communities.

In collaboration with the AU and the EU, OIBC 6 launched the AU Compliance Framework initiative to strengthen capacities of Africa Union Peace Support Operations Staff (AU PSOs) personnel to comply with International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, Conduct and Discipline standards and to develop harmonized procedures and establish coherent mechanisms aiming at preventing violations, ensuring accountability and providing remedy.

23 [Podcast Exploring Extremism](#)

OIBC 7 – Forced displacement and migration



About 100 million Africans forcibly leave their homes due to violent or protracted conflicts – an increase of ten million from 2021. COVID-19 exposed the need for inter-agency, inter-pillar predictive analyses to enhance coordination on data and strengthen preparedness for the growing and interconnected risks in the Sahel.

i. Support to the AU Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference

In support of the 2022 AU-UN joint workplan developed with the AU Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development, OIBC 7²⁴ provided technical expertise to the AU Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference. A High-level Side Event was also held on the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement (26 May 2022) on the margins of the Malabo Summit, to maximize joint AU-UN efforts to address solutions to internal displacement [IDP A4 \(unocha.org\)](#). The [Malabo Declaration](#) advocated for addressing root causes of forced displacement through increased humanitarian financing, recovery, peace and development financing. OIBC 7 supported the AU to produce a 10-year Action Plan charting AUC's humanitarian action for the next decade through operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency. Also, the AU Humanitarian Symposium provided an opportunity to dialogue with the AU on how it can better deliver and support humanitarian action on the continent.

ii. Support to the UN Network on Migration

Following the International Migration Review Forum in New York in May 2022, which led to an inter-governmentally agreed Progress Declaration, the UN

Network on Migration and OIBC 7 engaged African Member States and other stakeholders through the UN Network on Migration in the Arab region, West and Central Africa region, and East and Southern Africa region, in collaboration with the UN Network on Migration at the country-level – supporting Member States in implementing and reviewing the Global Compact on Migration, and in developing national action plans.

iii. Mainstreaming forced displacement and migration issues in CCAs, Cooperation Frameworks, national and area-based sub-national plans

OIBC 7 supported the UNCT Ethiopia Retreat on regional good practices to inform priorities for post-conflict recovery and sustaining peace in Ethiopia – prioritizing and defining clear result areas pertaining to early recovery programming, reinforcing social cohesion, transitional justice and operationalizing LNOB principles through inclusion of forcibly displaced and migrant populations from and in Ethiopia.

iv. Launch of the Regional Migration Response Plan (MRP)

OIBC 7 coordinated the launch of the Regional Migration Response Plan aimed at addressing humanitarian, development and protection needs of migrants along the eastern migratory route, including transiting, stranded, settled and returnee migrants between the Horn of Africa and Yemen, through a multi-partner, multi-year response. The MRP brings together over 40 partners from Member States, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Yemen, IGAD, UN, INGOs and NGOs.

OIBC 7 supported finalizing the East Africa Community's Regional Labour Migration Policy, achieved through national and regional consultative meetings with Partner States, IOM, ILO, AUC and other relevant stakeholders and with support from the Joint Labour Migration Programme.

Labour migration governance was strengthened at national level through development and validation of labour migration policies in Eswatini, Malawi and South Africa; the implementation of Labour Migration Action Plans in Lesotho, Seychelles and Zimbabwe; finalization and implementation of a labour migration action plan for Namibia.

The Migration Policy Framework for SADC was approved following technical support for its development by OIBC 7. UNHCR and SADC jointly elaborated a roadmap on improving asylum systems, capacity support and comprehensive support in Southern Africa.

vi. Enhancement of capacity of RECs, UNCTs and HCTs to analyze and address root causes and consequences of new and protracted forced displacement and migration

OIBC 7 supported Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) systems in Africa by operationalizing the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) currently implemented based on policy and programmatic guidance provided by African ministers responsible for civil registration (through the resolutions made at the previous two sessions of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration).

Additionally, OIBC 7 with the AUC supported the organization of an Experts Group Meeting of the sixth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration held on 24-28 October 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the theme: *A Decade into APAI-CRVS – Reflecting on progress and accelerating efforts towards 2030 through transformed systems*. OIBC 7 integrated the UN

Legal Identity Agenda in discussions of CRVS, and Member States considered the development of standard operating procedures for vital event registration of and conferral of legal identity to migrants, refugees, displaced, stateless, mobile and unregistered populations.

IOM, UNODC and the African Institute on Statistics (STATAfric) developed international standards and guidance on collection, management and use of administrative data on trafficking in persons. Two joint publications are forthcoming: *the International Standard Classification for administrative data on Trafficking in Persons (ICS-TIP) and its accompanying guidance manual*. IOM in collaboration with STATAfric, IGAD and ECOWAS supported rollout of these materials through training and national workshops to strengthen capacity of AU member states.

vii. Migration and Climate Nexus

OIBC 7 established the Regional UN Working Group on Climate Change, Security, Environment and Development (UNCCSED) to promote UN knowledge sharing and coordination on climate-related work. It also hosted a regional conference on climate change, peace and security, resulting in a call for action on heightened climate action and peacebuilding through evidence-based analysis and policymaking; integrated partnerships and collaboration; and financing the combat against climate change for peace and security.

viii. Prevention of Statelessness

UNHCR working with OIBC 7 engaged in active advocacy with Member States for adoption of the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Specific Aspects on the Right to a Nationality and Eradication of Statelessness in Africa – key for attainment of SDG 16 and its target 16.9 on legal identity for all, including birth registration by 2030. This is part of the #IBelong Campaign launched in 2014 to end statelessness within ten years.

OIBC 8 – Regional initiatives and strategies



OIBC 8²⁵ was established as a cross-cutting coalition to support the work of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and Special Envoys (SRSGs/SEs) as well as UNCTs by providing them with an on-demand framework to act on cross-pillar collaboration between SRSGs/SEs working on critical political and related strategies on one hand, and RCP Regional Directors of the UN development system on the other. The objective is to spotlight cross-pillar work of the UN in Africa by bridging political, peace, security and development streams in sub-regions where such SE/SRSGs are operating.

i. UNISS Peace and Security Offer

Together with UNOWAS as co-lead of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) Peace and Security pillar, OIBC 6 developed a UNISS Peace and Security Offer to be implemented by the UN system²⁶ and aligned to the Cooperation Frameworks of the ten UNISS countries. It is envisaged that UNCTs will support implementation through joint programmes. The Offer repositions and scales-up the UN response to the evolving geostrategic context in the Sahel and is expected to support resource mobilization efforts. The Offer will address the main drivers of insecurity in the region and as a strategic document, will consider time-specific developments in the programmatic documents and joint project proposals.

ii. Climate change, peace and security nexus in West Africa

In April 2022, UNOWAS convened a regional conference on climate change, peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel, in Dakar which led to a [call for action](#) endorsed by UNOWAS, FAO, IOM,

WFP, Ireland, Ghana and ECOWAS on, *inter alia*, *inclusive, evidence-based analysis and policymaking, integrated partnerships and collaboration, and climate finance for sustaining peace*. A side event was held at COP-27: “*Forging Partnerships to Implement the Call to Action Adopted at the Regional Conference on Climate Change, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel*”, addressing the need for climate action as part of overall efforts towards peace, security, economic development and social cohesion in West Africa and the Sahel.

The UN system is working collaboratively to better address climate-related security risks, engaging government officials, e.g. from the Gambia and Niger, the Director-General of the Agency of Reforestation and the Great Green Wall of Senegal, UN Special Envoy for Climate and Security, the Executive Secretary of the University Network for Resilience in the Sahel (REUNIR), and the Deputy Director of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) on key aspects of implementation.

OIBC-5 scaled up Anticipatory Action (AA) in the region with financial support from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). In 2022, three joint two-year UN multi-agency AA Frameworks for drought were finalized and endorsed in Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger. In August 2022, the third window of Niger’s CERF AA Framework was triggered based on early season monitoring. Seven UN agencies received a total of USD 9.5 million to jointly implement AA in complementing sectors in four communes of Tillabery, Dosso and Tahoua regions. Findings from this activation will be available in early 2023.

25 Focus is on Subregional initiatives

26 CTED, FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNECA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNITAR, UNMAS, UNOCT, UNOPS, UNREC, UNV, UN WOMEN, WFP and WHO

Task Force 2 – Africa Regional Knowledge Management Hub



Driven by the UN SG's recommendation # 2 on institutionalizing and strengthening knowledge management to support the achievement of the SDGs in Africa, the work of Task Force 2 (TF 2) in 2022 focused on two flagship initiatives: (i) Development and operationalization of knowledge hubs, and (ii) Development and operationalization of the cross-agency expertise location tool and Communities of Practice (CoP) platform.

TF 2 led the continuous development, maintenance and updating of the UN Africa Regional Knowledge Hub on COVID-19²⁷ acting as a one-stop-shop for data and information resources relevant to the impact and response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa. It provides UNCTs, Member States and partners better access to sound knowledge on health and well-being of the continent in relation to COVID-19. TF 2 is currently finalizing the:

- UN Expertise Repository facilitating mapping of expertise across the SDGs, OIBCs thematic areas and countries across the region. The expertise database is expected to be officially launched in 2023. The absence of a governance structure to mandate participation and interoperability by all entities in the region creates challenges in terms of populating the database with expert profiles.
- Africa Knowledge Management Hub (AKMH), ensuring integration, interoperability, visibility, and accessibility to Africa regional UNDS knowledge assets. More needs to be done in terms of UNDS entities' contribution to the development of the platform.

- Cross-agency expertise location tool and Communities of Practice (CoP) platform aimed at facilitating collaboration and sharing of relevant data, information, knowledge resources and innovative experience needed for achieving and measuring progress in attaining SDGs. The delayed official launch of CoP platform challenges onboarding and appointment of moderators of various OIBCs and Task forces for knowledge facilitation and sharing to achieve SDGs.

²⁷ The COVID-19 hub was nominated and won the WSIS 2022 prize as a Champion project in the AL C11 category: International and regional cooperation: <https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/stocktaking/Prizes/2022/Champions?jts=SJDAB6&idx=12&page=18#start>

Task Force 5 – Regional Efficiencies



The Task Force on Recommendation 5 (TF 5) finalised the Regional Business Operations Strategy (R-BOS) towards enhancing quality, efficiency and effectiveness of Regional Operations. The Regional Operations Management Team (R-OMT) played analytical and advisory roles in developing the R-BOS, coordinating with UNCTs and their Operations Management Teams (OMTs) in identifying programmatic needs and operations support. The R-BOS was signed off by the RCP Co-chairs in July 2022.

According to the R-BOS, regional UN entities are expected to achieve a total cost avoidance of US\$ 5.3 million in the next five years through collaboration of eleven common services. TF 5 provided oversight to UNCTs and their OMTs in all 53 African countries, out of which 48 completed the 2022 BOS Annual Review by 14 April 2023, resulting in realized benefits of USD 41 million.

Country-level BOS also reported massive quality improvements across six common service lines against their baseline data. Evidence of the cost avoidance of BOS at regional and country levels can be found on [UN Info BOS Data Monitoring Platform](#).

During the BOS annual review, the R-OMT encouraged country-level OMTs to identify SDGs high impact common services. Lesotho, Namibia and Nigeria received seed funding for Disability Inclusion (DI) projects which are currently under implementation within their respective BOS. R-OMT

also supported OMTs in seven countries²⁸ to develop business cases to receive seed funding for renewable energy programmes in UN Premises.

Technical support, including direct guidance, training and mentorship to 53 countries was provided to complete the common premises stocktake exercise; and to advance development of their Common Back Office (CBO) business cases; one of which is at the point of sign off, one in its final stages and other two at the design phase.²⁹

R-OMT focussed on capacity development and mentorship during the first six months of 2022. Country-level OMT members were encouraged to pursue BOS Trainer of Trainers, Practitioner and Intermediate trainings, aiming to fill capacity gaps within the region. 66 OMT members received BOS training in Cairo (Egypt) in February, and 97 received it in Nairobi (Kenya) in May.

Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams Support through the Peer Support Group

In 2022, the RCP working through the Peer Support Group (PSG), under the coordination of the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) Regional Office for Africa, guided Resident Coordinators and UNCTs in 16 countries³⁰ to design their UNSDCFs, underpinned by robust Common Country Analyses (CCAs). A total of 83 experts from 22 Africa RCP UN entities provided quality assurance support to

28 Ghana, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe

29 Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Senegal, respectively

30 Algeria, Benin, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Libya, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Sudan, Togo, Zambia.

these CFs and CCAs. During the design phase, PSG provided strategic policy and technical support to the RCs to effectively lead strategic prioritization engagements, with UNCT members, government partners and other actors.

These strategic sessions facilitated by PSG experts resulted in the UNCTs' strengthened CFs in support of national plans and priorities. Many PSG members were also key resource and collaborated with the DCO Africa in strengthening the capacity through training of UNCTs and partners in 6 countries on the programming principles especially Leaving No One Behind (LNOB), Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) and results-based management (RBM) for effective integration into the 16 CFs in line with the central promise of SDGs.



Chapter 5

Engagement with Regional and Sub-Regional Stakeholders



A. Key partnerships built in support of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and their results, including cross-regional exchanges: Progress on AU-UN Collaboration through AU-UN RCP collaboration platform

This section reports on the progress made in the context of the AU-UN RCP collaboration platform based on the Joint AU-UN frameworks namely, the 1) Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and 2) Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, which were signed in January 2018 and September 2017 respectively. Following the reforms of both institutions, the inaugural meeting of the AU-UN Regional Collaborative Platform was held on 23 June 2022 in order to provide strategic reflections on the UN-AUC partnership in achieving Agendas 2063 and 2030. The meeting agreed on the key joint priority areas of work for 2022 and how best to strengthen the partnership between the two institutions. These agreed areas formed the basis of a joint work plan.³¹ Subsequently, the African Union Commission Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat, and the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, held the 6th African Union-United Nations Annual Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to review progress in implementing the two frameworks.

Progress has been made in the collaboration with the AU based on the joint workplan agreed upon at the 23rd June AU-UN RCP Collaborative Meeting. The OIBCs have been working with their AU Counterparts in the areas of data and statistics, climate change – especially in the preparations towards and convening of COP-27 in Egypt in November 2022 – regional economic integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area, gender, education transformation, demographic dividends etc. A few of the collaborative initiatives are highlighted below.

On data and statistics, through the joint efforts of the AU and the UN, the Strategy for the Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa and the African Charter on Statistics were endorsed and adopted by the African Heads of State and Government. In addition, progress is being made to produce quality environmental data through the Pan African Institute for Statistics, which will be critical for joint work on climate issues.

The recently concluded COP27 provided an opportunity for the UN to support the African Union in articulating and building consensus on Africa's position on energy and just energy transitions. Work is also ongoing on the establishment of the African carbon facility at subregional and country levels. The carbon credit market offers Africa significant financing opportunities for renewable energy and sustainable development. On fostering climate action and resilience, the UN is supporting the three African Climate Commissions (Congo Basin, Islands and Sahel) established during COP22, encouraged by the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) in its meeting on 6 Feb 2022. The harmonization of the Carbon Protocols, with the establishment of the regional carbon registries in the Congo Basin is a concrete outcome. The UN worked with the AU in setting up the African Pavilion at COP 27, and in the training of the African team of climate negotiators ahead of the meeting.

Other notable areas of progress include advancing the implementation of the AfCFTA. To date, 28 countries (eight in 2022) have developed and validated their national AfCFTA implementation strategies. The UN is working closely with the AU AfCFTA secretariat to support countries in implementing these strategies. In October, the AfCFTA Secretariat successfully realised two shipments under the AfCFTA Guided Trade Initiative, an initiative that aims to match businesses

31 1) Climate Change; 2) Trade, Macroeconomics framework and economic diversification including AfCFTA and Debt; 3) Digital transformation; data and statistics; 4) Food Sustainability; 5) Humanitarian Issues and 6) COVID 19 and Transboundary Issues

and products for exports and imports between interested State Parties based on their national AfCFTA implementation strategies.

Similarly, COVID-19 response strategies have been incorporated through a trade lens under the AfCFTA strategies developed by countries supported by OIBC 2 members (Botswana, South Sudan, Comoros, Central African Republic, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, ECOWAS, and Djibouti). Also, UN entities, especially UNIDO and UNECA supported the AU in the organization of the AU Industrialization Week and the AU Extraordinary Summit on Industrialization and Economic Diversification in November 2022 and will be supporting in the implementation of the decisions and follow-up actions from the Summit.

On harnessing demographic dividends through investments in youth and women, the UN continued to partner with the AUC Specialized Technical Committee on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment to consolidate an African position in the lead up to the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (held in March 2023) under the theme "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls". To leverage on the Transforming Education Summit (TES), the UN co-organized a high-level side event on the margins of TES in partnership with other regional stakeholders and African Union focusing on 'transforming education' in the specific context of Africa. This was the culmination of preparations by 49 countries who had prepared their country perspectives to feed into the continental perspective and common position.

Moving towards the joint implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063 is among the key priorities of the UN Secretary-General and the AU Chairperson. A major entry point for the UN in 2023 lies in its collaboration in the formulation of the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan of the Agenda 2063 which would organically align and consolidate the UN-AU work towards implementing the two agendas. Another notable priority is the adoption by the AU of AfCFTA as the theme of the year. The OIBCs can leverage the commitments to accelerate the implementation of the AfCFTA and the 15 countries which are expected to prepare their Cooperation Frameworks in 2023. The priority of Africa's economic recovery is another area of collaboration with the AU as agreed between the UN SG and the Chairperson of the AU at the AU-UN Annual meeting on 1 December 2022.



Chapter 6

The Way Forward

The year 2022 confirms growing interest and demands of RCs and UNCTs on the RCP and its support to translate global and regional commitments to country-level action for the SDGs. It affirms the value of joined up regional assets and triggered deep reflection on recalibrating the OIBCs to better contribute to solving emerging challenges, and seizing opportunities for rescuing the SDGs in Africa. 2022 unearthed important lessons for the Africa RCP, including prioritizing thematic focus areas, rationalizing coalitions to better respond (resulting in a re-organization from eight to six O/IBCs); and reinvigorating the practice of Resident Coordinators meeting Regional Directors for direct interaction, as needed. We strengthened the relationship with the AUC, and are in a stronger position to build here on.

Priorities for 2023 were identified through a needs assessment from all 53 RCs. Highlights are anchored in three pillars: agency of Africa, acceleration of SDGs and impact. The RCP will support the 15 UNCTs designing Cooperation Frameworks in 2023, the AfCFTA as AU theme for 2023, data and statistics, as well as support and follow through on key global summits (Transforming Education Summit, SDG Summit, COP 28, amongst others). The RCP will continue to provide on-demand response to RCs/UNCT requests, and support the Peace, Security and Development nexus, as well as Africa's economic recovery.



Annexes





Annex 1

Membership of the Africa RCP's Opportunity/Issue- based Coalitions and Task Forces in 2022³²












32 During the Africa RCP 2022 Annual Retreat in Dakar (17-18 November) and to align with the principles of flexibility of the platform, the Africa RCP reviewed its O/IBCs reconfiguration in order to strengthen targeted responsiveness and in line with the trends and needs of the continent. The newly reconfigured Africa RCP as of November 2022 comprise of 6 O/IBCs moving forward.

OPPORTUNITY/ISSUE-BASED COALITIONS


















- **OIBC 1** – Strengthened integrated data and statistical systems for sustainable development
- **OIBC 2** – Ensuring effective and efficient macroeconomic management and accelerated inclusive, economic transformation and diversification;
- **OIBC 3** – Harnessing demographic dividends through investments in youth and women’s empowerment (health, education and employment)
- **OIBC 4** – Leveraging new technologies and enabling digital transitions for inclusive growth and development
- **OIBC 5** – Fostering climate action and resilience
- **OIBC 6** – Peace, security, and the respect of human rights
- **OIBC 7** – Forced displacement and migration
- **OIBC 8** – Sub-regional initiatives and strategies

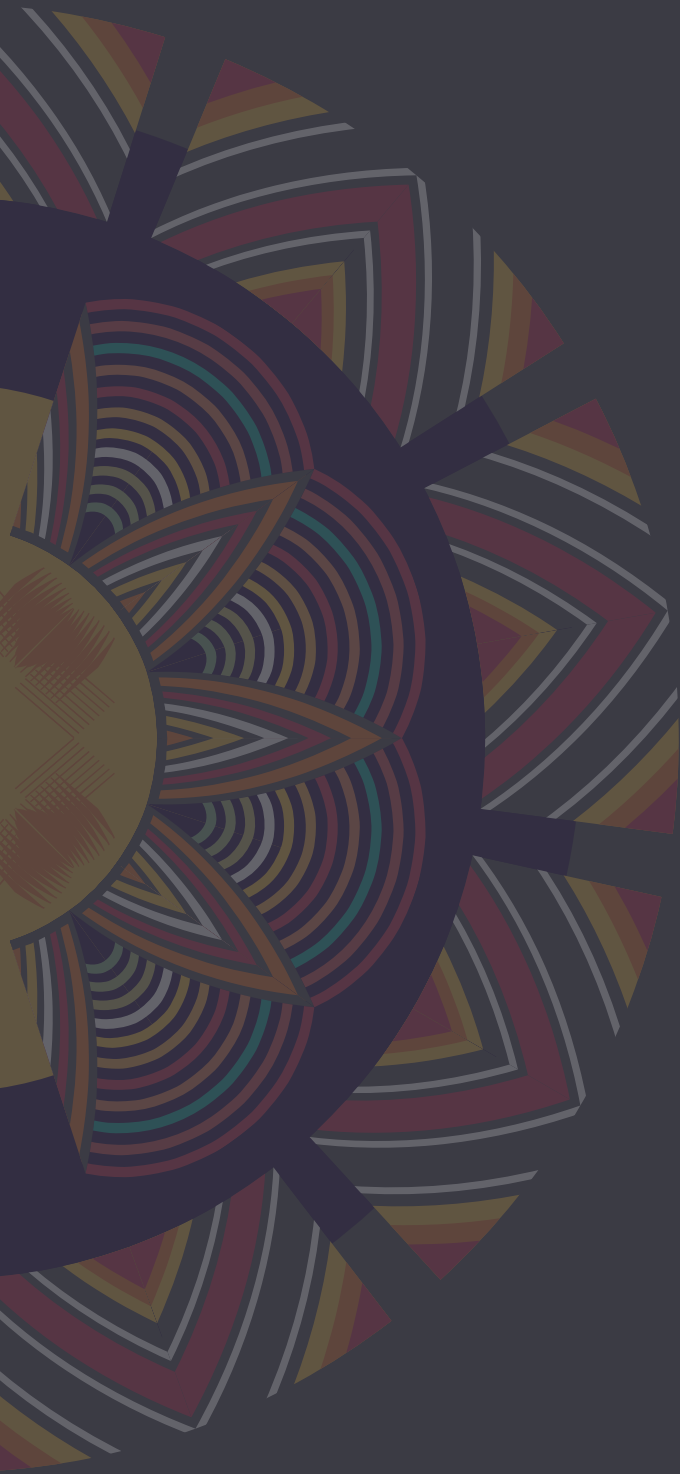
TASK FORCES

- **TF 2** – Africa Regional Knowledge Management Hub
- **TF 3** – Enhancing transparency and RBM at the regional level
- **TF 5** – Regional Efficiencies
- Co-conveners

Africa RCP Members									
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**SUSTAINABLE
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