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Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [72/311](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually on persistent and emerging challenges to the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, including the root causes of conflict and conditions to advance sustainable development, as well as on the approach and support of the United Nations system. In the report, progress made on the peace and security and development in Africa is highlighted, persisting and emerging conflict trends and their root causes are assessed and the support provided by, and the approach of, the United Nations system to Africa in the period from July 2018 to June 2019 is outlined.

Also in resolution [72/311](#), the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to develop policy proposals on issues identified in his previous report ([A/73/273-S/2018/566](#)), which addressed the persisting challenge of forced displacement in Africa. The theme aligns with the African Union theme of the year for 2019, namely, "Refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in Africa: towards durable solutions to forced displacement". Forced displacement, internal or external, is a complex global crisis with far-reaching security, political, socioeconomic, human rights, humanitarian, environmental and development effects, in particular with respect to the shared aspiration to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

Identifying and implementing sustainable, durable solutions to the challenge therefore entails adopting a comprehensive, integrated, coordinated and inclusive approach that, among other things, promotes multisectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships and addressing the root causes of conflict-induced forced displacement. The World Humanitarian Summit of the African Union and the

* [A/74/150](#).



Global Refugee Forum of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, both of which are to be held in 2019, will provide opportunities to further galvanize actions in that respect. The two events will allow for collective reflection and stock-taking on the progress made to date, showcase Africa's solidarity and good practices in hosting displaced persons and explore ways to continue to leverage political support, partnerships and international solidarity to promote innovative and durable solutions that address the root causes of forced displacement in Africa.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 72/311, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually on persistent and emerging challenges to the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, including the root causes of conflict and conditions to advance sustainable development, as well as on the approach and support of the United Nations system. Progress made on the peace and security and development in Africa is highlighted, persisting and emerging conflict trends and their root causes are assessed and the support provided by, and the approach of, the United Nations system to Africa during the reporting period is outlined. In the report, prepared in consultation with members of the Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs, coordinated by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the issue of forced displacement in Africa, which was identified in the previous report (A/73/273-S/2018/566), is also examined and recommendations and proposals are provided for addressing the root causes and promoting durable solutions.

2. The focus on durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa not only aligns with the African Union theme of the year for 2019, namely, “Refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in Africa: towards durable solutions to forced displacement”, but also with the commemoration of the fiftieth and tenth anniversaries of the adoption of the Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), respectively. The report is aimed at directly contributing to the realization of the objective of the African Union to bring global visibility to forced displacement in Africa.¹

II. Year in review

3. During the reporting period, countries in Africa continued to show strong solidarity by hosting large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons and were more resolute and assertive in achieving the transformative Agenda 2063 of the African Union, with significant economic, social, political, development and institutional gains recorded. On the economic front, the Economic Commission for Africa² noted that economic growth was projected to increase from 3.2 per cent in 2018 to 3.4 per cent in 2019, mainly owing to strong private consumption, higher oil production and a strengthened global demand for and moderate increase in prices of commodities. In addition, investment in public infrastructure, in particular in countries that are not endowed with marketable natural resources, surged and thereby enabled economic growth.

4. The growth rate is insufficient for eradicating poverty, however, or for meeting other targets set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, and the growth was largely based on carbon-intensive drivers that are not compatible with environmental sustainability. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations estimates that Africa will need to raise an estimated 11 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) annually for the next 10 years to close the financing gap. With an average tax revenue to GDP ratio at below 16 per cent,

¹ African Union, “Concept note on the theme of the year”, document EX.CL/1112(XXXIV)Rev.1.

² *Economic Report on Africa 2019: Fiscal Policy for Financing Sustainable Development in Africa* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.19.II.K.2).

efficient and effective domestic resource mobilization can address a substantial portion of the financing shortfall.

5. To accelerate economic growth, Africa must boost investment in infrastructure and productive capacities, especially investment that will absorb the capacities of its large population of young people, in order to help to improve competitiveness, create decent jobs and promote regional integration. The countries in Africa should also tackle the drivers and root causes of insecurity, fragility, violent conflicts and forced displacement, including terrorism and extremism. The agreement launching the African Continental Free Trade Area, which came into force in May 2019 and was formally launched in July 2019, will, when fully implemented, increase intra-African trade and present pathways for ground-breaking opportunities to advance the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 through inclusive socioeconomic growth and the structural transformation of the continent.

6. Regarding governance, in its most recent report,³ the African Peer Review Mechanism indicated an overall improvement in the state of governance in Africa, with tangible performance in economic governance and management, as well as corporate governance. There was progress made in democratic and political governance, including in the improved management of electoral processes, as evidenced by the 27 African countries that held elections in 2018 and those that have held election to date in 2019, namely, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa, as well as the attainment of gender parity in government in Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau and South Africa. There were also warning signals that underscored an urgent need for pragmatism in promoting democratic principles and institutions, public participation and good governance, including constitutionalism and respect for the rule of law, as well as aligning implementation of national development plans with the aspirations and objectives set out in Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

7. Other notable political developments included the following in the Horn of Africa: the Ethiopia-Eritrea rapprochement; signing of the tripartite agreement between Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia; and restoration of diplomatic relations between Djibouti and Eritrea and between Eritrea and Somalia. Those are all expected to significantly contribute to regional peace and security, stability, economic development and integration in the region. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa will carry out his good offices role and work closely with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and other relevant subregional and regional organizations in consolidating those peace and security gains and enhancing subregional capacities to address cross-border and other cross-cutting issues that allow insecurity to fester.

8. Both the continuing consultations and engagements following the signing of the power-sharing agreement in August 2018 and the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan in September 2018 convey optimism for a renewed peace process in the country. In the Central African Republic, actual implementation of the agreement signed between the Government and all 14 armed groups in February 2019, in the context of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, is envisaged to help to catalyse efforts to address the impact of the ongoing violence, restore peace and stability and tackle the development challenges in the country.

9. Institutional and programmatic progress were also recorded in several areas during the reporting period. In furthering the implementation of its African Peace and Security Architecture road map, the African Union established the Centre for

³ African Peer Review Mechanism, with the African Governance Architecture, "Africa governance report: promoting African Union shared values", January 2019.

Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development, which will be hosted by Egypt. Contributions to the African Union Peace Fund increased from \$80.6 million in 2018 to about \$112 million as at May 2019. The annual observance of the “Africa amnesty month” in September further encouraged the voluntary surrender of illegally possessed weapons, consistent with its “Silencing the guns in Africa” initiative. In September 2018 and December 2018, respectively, the African Union launched its “Youth for peace Africa” programme and convened the second FemWise-Africa General Assembly, both of which were aimed at enhancing the participation of young people and women in its conflict prevention and mediation efforts. Its ongoing efforts to promote gender-transformative education systems in Africa, based on the strategic plan of the African Union International Centre for the Education of Girls and Women in Africa, for the period 2018–2020, helped to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5 and related targets in Agenda 2063. The launch of its African Women Leadership Fund in June 2019 constituted a milestone in realizing the goals aimed at gender equality and the empowerment of women of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The Fund is intended as an innovative impact investment fund to help to address structural barriers and deliver inclusive growth in Africa.

10. Other institutional developments included the transitioning of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development Agency into the African Union Development Agency to coordinate and execute priority regional and continental development projects towards the realization of Agenda 2063. The African Peer Review Mechanism that was established within the framework of the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development was further integrated into the African Union and, in its decision Assembly/AU/Dec.631(XXVIII), the Assembly of the African Union requested the Mechanism to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. With its considerably expanded mandate, the Mechanism will serve at the forefront of the work of the African Union in monitoring progress on critical governance issues, in line with the benchmark commitments contained in both Agendas. Furthermore, the African Union took concrete steps towards operationalizing the African Union Humanitarian Agency and convened its first mid-year coordination meeting with the regional economic communities, held in Niamey in July 2019.

11. Those gains notwithstanding, a number of challenges have persisted during the reporting period. Many African economies face risks with regard to growth from the tightening of monetary policies and new protectionist policies in advanced economies and high chances of debt distress in some countries. Despite steady progress, Africa’s poverty reduction efforts are slow and have not kept up with population growth, as the number of people in absolute poverty has remained at around 390 million. Income inequality is also high, at 0.44, measured by the Gini coefficient, despite being on the decline. Unemployment stood at just above 7 per cent in 2017 and is projected to remain there in 2019, as countries intensify efforts to diversify their economies.

12. The popular movements in Algeria and the Sudan that ousted the presidents of those countries revealed the depth of democratic governance deficits and the critical need for an inclusive and participatory governance approach that is responsive to the wishes of citizens and upholds human rights and the rule of law and for strengthening access to socioeconomic opportunities. Those two events raised fundamental questions about the applicability of existing African Union norms regarding the actions of the militaries of African countries in the context of such regime transitions.

13. The overall security situation across the continent also remained a serious concern, owing to growing threats from insurgency, extremism, terrorism, transnational organized crime and intercommunal violence, exacerbated by the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, especially in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. Humanitarian emergencies arose following the outbreak and prolonged period of

uncontrolled spread of the Ebola virus disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with heightened concern of its spreading to neighbouring countries, and the adverse weather conditions such as Cyclones Idai and Kenneth that caused extensive damage and mass displacement in the Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Three of the challenges highlighted above are discussed further below.

A. Proliferating insurgency and extremist and terrorist actions

14. Insurgency, terrorism and violent extremism remained persistent threats to peace and security, human rights protection and sustainable development in Africa during the reporting period. There was an increase in the geographical scope and frequency of the activities of insurgent, extremist and terrorist groups. Al-Qaida, Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, groups affiliated with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), ISIL in West Africa Province, ISIL in Greater Sahara and Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin continued their attacks against civilians and military targets, undermining both State and human security in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria and Somalia. Upticks in intercommunal violence and individual, group, social and structural vulnerabilities were also exploited to advance their causes. Their expansion and sustainment was, and continues to be, enabled by the malicious use of new technologies and links to organized criminal networks that provide financing and logistical support.

15. Other structural factors, such as deficits in rule of law, poor State controls over weapons and ammunition, endemic corruption, inadequate or absence of State authority and services, especially in peripheral areas, dismal education opportunities, degradation of the environment and connected livelihoods and food security, have all increased the susceptibility of communities to terrorist and extremist groups and enabled their recruitment of young people. In addition, the activities of such armed groups, and the corresponding counterterrorism and counterextremism measures of Governments in a number of the aforementioned countries, have undermined humanitarian access and actions, which underscores the relevance of Security Council resolution [2462 \(2019\)](#) in efforts to counter terrorism financing, while avoiding the unintended effects for humanitarian actions in areas under the control of terrorist groups in Africa.

16. A comprehensive and integrated approach is the ideal for combating terrorism and addressing conditions that are conducive to its spread. Military actions should be balanced and complemented with development programmes that address local needs, exclusion, marginalization and discrimination, create access to socioeconomic opportunities, in particular employment for young people, improve governance and the delivery of basic services, uphold human rights and the rule of law and maintain a robust civic space. Initiatives such as the coordination conference for partners and donors organized by the Group of Five for the Sahel, held in Nouakchott in December 2018, contributes to that approach, and the conference generated additional commitments of €125 million for priorities across the areas of defence, security, sustainable development, governance, infrastructure and resilience-building.

17. Other continental and global tools, including the African Union strategy for the Sahel region, the recalibrated United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel, the United Nations support plan for the Sahel, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and the United Nations plan of action to prevent violent extremism, are equally expedient for catalysing a more integrated action encompassing peace and security, human rights, humanitarian assistance and sustainable development to address the root causes of the crisis. Effective implementation is key,

however, and necessitates an integrated, coherent, coordinated and collaborative approach at all levels in order to ensure meaningful results.

B. Rule of law deficits and a persisting culture of impunity

18. The rule of law is a key principle of governance and a vital component of the social contract between Governments and their citizens. It is measured by factors including the levels of responsiveness, capacity, effectiveness, accountability, inclusiveness, credibility and transparency of institutions that are at the front lines of service delivery, governance and crisis response and by the degree and quality of citizens' participation. The rule of law is a catalyst for, and also an enabler of, sustainable peace and development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16, and Agenda 2063.

19. In the period under review, progress was made in promoting the rule of law and ensuring access to justice, including in the Central African Republic, where the Special Criminal Court commenced its hearings. Several countries embarked on constitutional and security and justice reforms, passed freedom of expression laws that promoted press freedom, strengthened legislative oversight capacities, adopted policies to uphold the rights of women and young people, including in elections, and reinforced the capacities of relevant institutions to combat terrorism, organized crime, corruption and illicit financial flows.

20. Challenges remained during the period under review, however. In a few countries, such as the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria and South Sudan, armed groups continued using sexual violence as a tactic of war and terror, with impunity. Many incidents of rape, forced marriages and sexual slavery targeted at women and girls, as well as the recruitment of boys by armed groups, were reported. Attacks on education also continued, with the abduction of students and teachers, including in Cameroon, where about 170 students were abducted from a secondary school by separatists in February 2019 and later regained their freedom. Continued trafficking of migrants in Libya, as well as allegations of brutality and excessive use of force by law enforcement and security personnel in several countries, especially in the context of counter-insurgency and counterterrorism efforts, were reported. The failed coup attempt in the Amhara region in Ethiopia and the excessive use of force by the military against protesters in the Sudan that both occurred in June 2019 undermined the rule of law and constituted violations of the rights of citizens. It was therefore encouraging that, on 5 July 2019, an agreement was reached in the Sudan between the Forces for Freedom and Change and the Transitional Military Council, on the establishment of transitional governing bodies. As I previously urged the parties, it is important that all stakeholders ensure the timely, inclusive and transparent implementation of the agreement and resolve any outstanding issues through dialogue.

21. Other shortfalls in the rule of law, as outlined in the African Governance Report, included the selective application of the law, disregard for public procurement rules and procedures, failure to respect court decisions, neglect of local and customary practices for dealing with crime and incumbent presidents manipulating the law and legal processes to retain power. Political vigilantism, used by incumbent and opposition political parties alike to advance their own interests, posed threats to democratic governance and the rule of law in several countries, notably in Ghana.

22. Improving and upholding the rule of law requires eliminating impunity and investing in coherent and long-term strategies that promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and ensure access to justice for all by building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, consistent with

Sustainable Development Goal 16. That imperative remains an integral element of the work of the United Nations as it continues to assist national authorities, in collaboration with regional and subregional organizations, in sustaining actions to promote the rule of law.

C. Intensification of resource-based conflicts: focus on land and water

23. Natural resource-based conflicts, in particular over diminishing renewable resources such as land and water, are not a new phenomenon in Africa. Natural resources have historically been a direct, causal and sustaining factor of wars and violent conflicts on the continent but also a vital aspect of efforts to resolve armed conflicts, especially when they form a negotiated part of peace agreements. The effective and sustainable management and equitable distribution of the benefits of natural resources are essential for preventing violent conflict and the related displacement.

24. During the reporting period, there was an intensification of intracommunal and intercommunal conflicts linked to natural resources, notably land and water, in particular the increasingly deadly fight between farmers and herders. It was compounded by the effects of climate change, weather-related disasters and environmental stresses, including drought, floods, extreme heat, land degradation, desertification and the effects of natural resource extraction, as described in the previous report. As countries in the Sahel belt region, in particular those that surround the shrinking Lake Chad Basin, as well as those in the Horn of Africa, experience the adverse effects of climate change, land tenure-related conflicts quickly assume dangerous dimensions. As noted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO),⁴ that scenario is contributing to worsening food insecurity, malnutrition and hunger in Africa, which currently has the highest prevalence of undernourishment, affecting more than 256 million people.

25. In March 2019, the Secretary-General issued a guidance note,⁵ in which it was indicated that, over the coming decades, competition and conflicts over diminishing land and water resources would increase, owing to the growing pressures of climate change, population growth, increased food insecurity, migration and urbanization. There will be profound and devastating effects on agriculture, which is the livelihood mainstay for over 80 per cent of Africans, of whom the majority are women. The far-reaching consequences of those changes in land and water availability for livelihoods and food security calls for collective action to protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of natural resources and to combat desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss. Investments in renewable energy and climate-smart agriculture are urgently needed as a foundation for climate-resilient sustainable development and for achieving Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 15 and the targets set out in Agenda 2063.

26. In September 2019, the Secretary-General will convene a climate action summit to step up ambitions and accelerate collective national political commitments for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and global climate action. African leaders are encouraged to come with actionable and bold plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions, aligned with their national development plans, to reduce

⁴ FAO International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization, *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018: building climate resilience for food security and nutrition* (Rome, FAO).

⁵ Guidance note of the Secretary-General, "The United Nations and land and conflict", March 2019.

and stop emissions. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is actively engaging with African leaders, policymakers and other stakeholders throughout the annual climate week, highlighting the importance of raising ambitions and taking climate action, in line with the target to cap rising temperatures at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

III. United Nations system support and approach

27. The support and approach of the United Nations system to Africa reflects the firm commitment to stronger cooperation between the system and the African Union and the regional economic communities, including in the context of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the organization of the twentieth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa.

28. As was acknowledged at the third African Union-United Nations annual conference, chaired jointly by the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, held in May 2019, the implementation of those frameworks has been a significant way to promote a more integrated and coherent approach between the institutions in addressing a wide range of peace and security issues and to work together towards advancing sustainable development. The cooperation is further reinforced by the joint declaration on cooperation for African Union peace support operations, signed in December 2018, and the work of the task force established by the Secretary-General in April 2019 to support the African Union “Silencing the guns in Africa” initiative. The task force will strengthen strategic coherence and operational collaboration within the United Nations system and promote a coordinated response to the African Union and the Security Council, in line with Council resolution [2457 \(2019\)](#).

A. Peace and security

29. The United Nations continued to deploy its resources to support the efforts of African countries, regional and subregional organizations and civil society to prevent and resolve conflicts and crises. The special representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General in Africa availed themselves of their good offices roles to promote political solutions in preventing and managing conflicts and crises and consolidating peace.

30. In October 2018, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa undertook a joint mission with the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission to Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and the Gambia to support their respective efforts aimed at national reconciliation and peace consolidation. Together with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Africa, support was provided for the organization of the extraordinary summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Lake Chad Basin Commission member countries and Benin, held in November 2018 in Chad. They also conducted a joint European Union-United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA)-United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) field assessment mission to N’Djamena and Yaoundé in March 2019 to evaluate the impact of the terrorist attacks led by Boko Haram and other extremist groups and the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad Basin.

31. In relation to the broader Sahel region, United Nations system entities, including UNOWAS, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and the United

Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to work closely with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Group of Five for the Sahel, civil society and other partners to contribute to conflict prevention, sustaining peace and socioeconomic development. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also supported the establishment of a civilian police component of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel to promote effective police responses to criminal networks. In November 2018, the Department for Economic and Social Affairs and the Peacebuilding Support Office convened a joint meeting of the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission on the linkages between climate change and challenges to peacebuilding and sustaining peace in the Sahel. The meeting called for a stronger focus on the peace-development nexus to tackle the crisis in the Sahel region and mobilized action towards advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the Paris Agreement.

32. United Nations system entities are mobilizing to support the African Union “Silencing the guns in Africa” initiative, which is focused on a comprehensive set of challenges and corresponding actions covering political, economic, social, environmental and legal aspects. The Office for Disarmament Affairs, through the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, oversaw the construction and rehabilitation of storage facilities, including a mobile one, in six Sahel countries, namely, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Nigeria. Hands-on training was provided to 300 armoury storekeepers and managers, and 5,870 recovered weapons were destroyed. Funded by the United Nations peace and development trust fund and with cooperation from UNOCA and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa supported a project to strengthen the capacity of 11 Central African States to implement the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and all Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly. FAO continued to implement its Dimitra Clubs project, a community-driven approach to facilitating social cohesion and the empowerment of rural people. There are over 3,500 Dimitra Clubs, with about 105,000 members in seven African countries.

33. Young people are a driving force in the promotion of peace and security and development in Africa, including the attainment of the objectives of the “Silencing the guns in Africa” initiative. To enhance the role of young people in preventing conflict and sustaining peace, the Department for Economic and Social Affairs undertook a project on evidence-based policy action on youth development in Africa and young people’s contribution to peace and security in Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire and Togo. The project was aimed at strengthening the capacities of Governments, youth and youth-led organizations in evidence-based formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes related to Security Council resolution [2250 \(2015\)](#) on youth and peace and security. The Department for Economic and Social Affairs, FAO, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and other members of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development working group on youth and peace and security held workshops aimed at enhancing youth engagement in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, while reducing their vulnerability to radicalization. UNICEF partnered with administrative and customary authorities in the Niger to train 44 youth peace brigades, which included young women, in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The brigades have since been demonstrating active leadership in resolving community-level conflicts across 26 communes in the Niger.

34. In July 2018, the Deputy Secretary-General and the Special Envoy of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security, together with the Minister

for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, led a joint United Nations-African Union high-level mission, organized by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Office of the Special Envoy, to Chad, the Niger and South Sudan to further the implementation of the agenda of the Security Council on women and peace and security and the goals for gender equality and the empowerment of women contained in Agenda 2063. In April 2019, UN-Women and the Office of the Special Envoy, together with UNOCA and ECCAS, supported a visit of the African Women Leaders Network to Cameroon, led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Leymah Gbowee. The mission advocated for the participation and leadership of Cameroonian women in ongoing initiatives to build peace and promote reconciliation and social cohesion in the context of the crises in the northwest and southwest regions of the country.

35. As part of the peace and reconciliation process in South Sudan, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, commenced a programme to protect South Sudanese women's land rights, through greater integration of women in land dispute resolution, mediation and peacebuilding dialogues. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported the African Union Peace and Security Council in organizing its 833rd open session in March 2019 on the theme "The role of women in conflict prevention and post-conflict peacebuilding: the contribution of women refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees in Africa". The Peace and Security Council focused on sexual and gender-based violence in displacement situations, called upon Member States to take specific measures to address sexual and gender-based violence and requested the African Union Commission to develop guidelines on mainstreaming the rights of refugee and displaced women in the African Peace and Security Architecture. In addition, in the context of the European Union-United Nations Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, the Governments of Liberia and Zimbabwe launched a multi-year Spotlight Initiative in June 2019 to assist women and girls in realizing their full potential in violence-free, gender-responsive and inclusive societies.

36. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia continued supporting the Federal Government of Somalia in its peacebuilding efforts, including in developing a national reconciliation framework and using its good offices and facilitation roles in resolving conflicts and supporting an inclusive and reconciliatory constitutional review process. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also supported maritime law enforcement authorities in Somalia in strengthening their capacity to intercept illicit consignments and also supported transit and recipient countries in enhancing information-sharing, interdictions, joint naval operations and strategies to decrease demands for charcoal trade, which is a source of terrorism financing in Somalia.

37. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Department of Political Affairs, UNOCA, ECCAS and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes convened two expert group meetings on conflict prevention, in July and November 2018, that culminated in a study to assess the conflict prevention capabilities of the regional economic communities. The findings and recommendations of the study will guide efforts aimed at facilitating resource mobilization for the regional economic communities on conflict prevention. The Department of Operational Support also continued to support the African Union in strengthening institutional and operational capacities on peace operations support.

B. Good governance and social justice

38. In implementing Sustainable Development Goal 16, the United Nations system further enhanced support to Africa in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies and strengthening institutions, including through platforms such as the group of Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies,⁶ a multi-stakeholder partnership which provided support to six African countries towards achieving justice for all. The Joint UNDP-Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs programme on building national capacities for conflict prevention deployed peace and development advisors to over 23 African countries and assisted national partners in carrying out strategic initiatives such as dialogue facilitation at the community level to address grievances and strengthen local and national peace institutions.

39. UNICEF supported the Government of Rwanda in building a child protection system that provides decentralized and integrated prevention and response to children who are affected by violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. Similar work was done with the Government of Burundi on the adoption of the revised Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, reinforcing mechanisms to protect children from abuse, exploitation and violence. In 2018, 338 minor children in detention benefited from legal assistance, leading to the release of 147 of them.

40. In June 2019, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa organized a workshop in Lomé, entitled “Support for security sector reform in law enforcement during the election period in a rule of law context”, that contributed to strengthening the capacities of public security forces and institutions on the subject. The United Nations Democracy Fund contributed to strengthening electoral processes in Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana and Nigeria, built capacity among women for democratic dialogue and accountability in Sierra Leone, strengthened media capacity to promote inclusive democracy in Mali and is currently mobilizing young people for the upcoming elections in Burkina Faso and Côte d’Ivoire. UN-Women held a high-level policy dialogue on gender-responsive election observation that reviewed election observation guidelines and the reporting mechanism of the African Union, the East African Community and the Southern Africa Development Community.

41. The Department for Economic and Social Affairs commenced implementation of an initiative on working with public administration schools and institutes to mobilize and equip public servants to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. The project is aimed at developing curricula on the Goals, with a focus on Goal 16, that will highlight how public servants should integrate the Goal targets into their daily work. A training module on transformational leadership capacities in Africa’s public sector institutions to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Goals was developed and launched in several management development institutes across Africa.

C. Human rights protection and humanitarian action

42. The United Nations system supported efforts of countries in Africa to further the implementation of regional and international human rights and humanitarian law instruments, strengthen judicial independence, promote access to justice, protect human rights defenders, address sexual and gender-based violence, respond to humanitarian emergencies and operationalize the African Union theme for 2019. In

⁶ See www.sdg16.plus.

September 2018, the United Nations, the African Union, the Government of the Niger, the secretariat of the Group of Five for the Sahel and ECOWAS convened a regional conference on combating impunity, access to justice and human rights in the context of emerging threats to peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel, at which a declaration was adopted outlining areas for accelerated action. OHCHR implemented a technical cooperation project with the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel to establish a compliance framework to prevent, mitigate and address violations of international human rights and humanitarian law that could be implemented by the Joint Force in the conduct of their counterterrorism operations.

43. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict pursued her global advocacy and engagement with warring parties to end and prevent violations against children in armed conflict, as well as attacks on schools and hospitals in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan. In collaboration with the African Union and the European Union, a new advocacy and media campaign was launched in April 2019, entitled “Act to protect children affected by armed conflict”. UNICEF played a critical role in defending the rights of children associated with armed groups, assisting in securing their release and enrolment in reintegration programmes and supporting the development of related national strategy documents in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and South Sudan. Building on the comprehensive regional prevention strategy for the Horn of Africa, UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF and UN-Women assisted the countries of the region in addressing the plight of children and young people on the move, preventing violent extremism, strengthening the participation and civic engagement of children and young people and their education and skills development and promoting adolescent health.

44. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and the African Union developed a common regional approach to human security and the protection of human rights for conflict-affected populations by facilitating countries in bringing national law and policies into conformity with global political instruments and the development of a collaborative results-based action plan, including for the Great Lakes Region. UNFPA supported African countries facing emergencies and protracted crises in providing life-saving services to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, meeting the sexual and reproductive health needs of women and girls through the minimum initial services package and leading or jointly leading the coordination of efforts to prevent and address gender-based violence.

45. Millions of people were also reached with life-saving humanitarian assistance in the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Nigeria, South Sudan and the Sudan. Between July 2018 and April 2019, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved \$184 million in grants from the Central Emergency Response Fund for life-saving humanitarian assistance in conflict settings in Africa, nearly 60 per cent of which was approved through the rapid response window for internal displacement, refugee operations, disease outbreaks and drought in 11 conflict-affected countries, including for response to new outbreaks of measles, cholera and Ebola virus disease.

46. Given the urgency to move from delivering short-term life-saving aid to reducing the needs of people and their risks and vulnerabilities to longer-term recovery, the United Nations system, in collaboration with other partners, continues to advance the implementation of the new way of working. UNHCR supported the roll-out of the comprehensive refugee response framework, as outlined in the global compact on refugees adopted by the General Assembly in December 2018, in eight African countries, namely, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda and Zambia.

47. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, WFP, the International Organization for Migration, UNHCR and other relevant United Nations entities, supported the efforts of the African Union towards operationalizing its Humanitarian Agency, including the convening of the fifth session of the African Humanitarian Architecture programme, in Livingstone, Zambia, in March 2019. The law and policy training programme enhances the capacities of African States to effectively implement normative frameworks on forced displacement and humanitarian matters. More than 500 senior and mid-level officials from States members of the African Union have been trained under the programme.

48. In May 2019, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in collaboration with UNHCR, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Global Communications, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union organized the Africa dialogue series at United Nations Headquarters, which contributed to raising global visibility of the African Union theme for 2019. The event showcased positive narratives of Africa's solidarity, progress, best practices and lessons learned in hosting refugees and internally displaced persons. The recommendations set forth in the context of the dialogues will feed into the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit of the African Union and the Global Refugee Forum of UNHCR.

D. Inclusive economic growth and sustainable development

49. The United Nations system support and approach also focused on promoting inclusive economic growth and sustainable development in Africa. Efforts in that regard are addressed in the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support" (A/74/193), which should be read in conjunction with the present report.

50. In addition, in the context of demographic change and climate threats, FAO implemented approximately 40 specific rural youth employment programmes, including for young refugees and internally displaced persons, to support the implementation of the road map of the African Union for harnessing demographic dividends through investments in youth and the commitments of African Governments to reducing youth unemployment by at least 2 per cent annually. UNFPA scaled up the Sahel Women's Demographic Dividend Initiative, which addressed vulnerabilities, facilitated economic gains for women and empowered young people. In the Niger, the International Fund for Agricultural Development promoted an integrated agricultural and livestock family farming approach that supported the socioeconomic integration of returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons within their communities.

51. In October 2018, the Government of Tunisia and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction jointly organized the Africa-Arab regional platform for disaster risk reduction, which adopted an outcome declaration in which it urged countries to develop innovative ways to ensure that disaster risk reduction was effectively implemented in conflict-affected contexts, including through risk-informed development planning and investment. UN-Women supported the African Union Commission in mainstreaming gender into Africa's regional programme for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

52. On the margins of the high-level political forum on sustainable development that was held in New York in July 2019, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa, UNDP and the African Union organized an Africa Day event that took stock of progress made in implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and provided African countries with a platform to further mobilize partnerships among United Nations entities, traditional, new and emerging development partners and those involved in South-South cooperation to accelerate

implementation of the two Agendas. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States also mobilized international support and resources for implementation of the programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to address specific structural challenges in those countries, consistent with the 2030 Agenda.

53. The Department of Global Communications applied a cross-cutting communications approach to promoting Africa's peace and security and development priorities. It published numerous reports on its digital platforms, websites and in the *Africa Renewal* magazine that helped to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities in the Sahel and African Continental Free Trade Area, among other things. Articles highlighting the role of young people and women have boosted the advocacy work of the United Nations entities addressing those issues.

IV. Towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa

54. The magnitude of forced displacement in Africa remains great, notwithstanding the solidarity and leadership of countries of the continent in managing the problem. According to UNHCR, there were 6.3 million and 18.6 million refugees and internally displaced persons, respectively, in Africa by the end of 2018.⁷ Seven of the 10 highest refugee-producing countries worldwide are also in Africa. However, the total number of refugees in Africa increased only by 1 per cent, with three African countries, namely, Ethiopia, the Sudan and Uganda, among the 10 countries hosting the highest refugee populations globally. To date, eight African countries have piloted the comprehensive refugee response framework, resulting in the development and application of innovative laws and policies on the protection of refugees. Ethiopia has adopted one of the most generous and progressive proclamations on refugee protection in Africa, despite its own pressing governance and developmental challenges. Those generous and progressive approaches notwithstanding, the mobilization of global solidarity to tackle displacement is still weak and mostly underfunded.

55. The renewed quest of the African Union for durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa is coming at a most opportune time. Durable solutions must take into account and make adequate provision for sustainable dignified outcomes for displaced persons, including voluntary and safe returns when feasible, local integration into host communities or countries and resettlement to another community or country. Such solutions must include actions to tackle the drivers and root causes of displacement. In that respect, Project 2019 of the African Union should be seen as a call to action to all stakeholders for a paradigm shift from a conventional approach that mostly addresses the immediate to short-term life-saving assistance and protection needs of displaced persons to a more comprehensive and longer-term approach that promotes durable solutions for already displaced persons in ways that also address the structural or root causes of displacement.

A. Leveraging political will to tackle the persisting and emerging drivers and root causes of protracted displacement

56. The current trend of forced displacement in Africa is largely driven by conflict and violence occurring within States, as observed in the period under review. States therefore have a key responsibility for identifying and implementing durable

⁷ UNHCR, "Global trends: forced displacement in 2018", 2019. Available from www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2018.

solutions to, and addressing the root causes of, forced displacement, with the support of African regional and subregional organizations, the international community, as well as the private sector and civil society. Other structural and proximate drivers highlighted above, including poor governance and rule of law, human rights violations, election-related violence, poverty, inequalities, youth unemployment and weather-related hazards, all underscore the central role of the State and the importance of deliberate and sustained political will and resources for tackling the phenomenon and addressing its root causes.

57. African States have indeed demonstrated commitment, solidarity and leadership in responding to and managing forced displacement. A number of African countries, including Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania have hosted displaced persons in protracted situations of displacement. They have also implemented a range of dignified durable solutions that serve as useful models. For example, the United Republic of Tanzania locally integrated significant numbers of refugees from Burundi, Guinea Bissau offered citizenship to refugees from Senegal and Zambia has provided long-term residency status to refugees. In Uganda, the practice of allocating land to refugees is well established, thereby enabling them to become self-reliant and better able to promote their social and economic integration.

58. At the regional and subregional levels, the African Union and the regional economic communities have developed a number of normative instruments for protecting displaced persons and other persons on the move, including the OAU convention on refugees, the Kampala Convention, the African Union model law for the implementation of the Kampala Convention, the common African position on humanitarian effectiveness, the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the memorandum on equality of treatment for refugees with other citizens of member States of ECOWAS in the exercise of free movement, right of residence and establishment. Currently, 46 of the 55 States members of the African Union are State parties to the OAU convention on refugees and 28 are State parties to the Kampala Convention. South Sudan was the most recent country to ratify the Kampala Convention, depositing its instrument of ratification with the African Union in June 2019. At the global level, African countries and regional and subregional organizations have supported related processes, including the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the comprehensive refugee response framework and the global compact on refugees. However, far more political will and investment is needed.

59. Political will is highly important for translating existing innovative and progressive policies into meaningful outcomes that serve displaced persons, host communities and countries, while reducing vulnerabilities and addressing the drivers and root causes of displacement. Ongoing efforts by the African Union to mobilize political will for the universal ratification, bringing national law and policies into conformity with, and the implementation of, both the OAU convention on refugees and the Kampala Convention is therefore a significant step. I encourage African countries to respond accordingly and leverage the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit in mobilizing the much needed political will and resources, including to anticipate future challenges and enhance their conflict prevention and disaster preparedness capacities. Moreover, the Global Refugee Forum to be held on 17 and 18 December 2019 in Geneva, will provide another timely opportunity to further leverage political will and momentum towards strengthening collective action to tackle drivers and address the root causes of forced displacement. In that respect, I call upon all parties of international conventions on refugees, migrants and human rights, including the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, to comply with the respective regulations.

B. Upholding protection in humanitarian and development actions

60. During the reporting period, there were attacks on displaced persons camps, an increase in sexual and gender-based violence targeting displaced persons and xenophobic violence, all of which underscore the need for enhanced protection for displaced persons. At the World Humanitarian Summit held in 2016, and in the Agenda for Humanity (A/70/709, annex), the need for a new way of working towards achieving collective outcomes across the humanitarian-development nexus to reduce needs, risks and vulnerabilities, over a multi-year time frame, based on the actions and the comparative advantages of various actors was stressed. The Secretary-General's initiative on action for peacekeeping includes important elements on the protection of civilians in conflict situations, which Member States have committed to in the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, adopted at the high-level meeting on the subject held in September 2018.

61. It is important for humanitarian, development and all other actors, including African Governments and partners, to promote effective implementation of those tools and other existing frameworks, on the basis of their comparative advantages, in order to ensure that no displaced person is in need, at risk, vulnerable or left behind, irrespective of gender, age, religion, location in rural or urban area or encampment, whether accompanied or unaccompanied or special needs status. Among other things, it requires strengthening the capacities of relevant national protection systems and institutions to better deliver basic safety and security services to displaced persons and host communities or countries, combating and preventing sexual and gender-based violence, ensuring gender sensitivity and developing programmes for the protection of specific groups, such women and children formerly associated with armed groups.

C. Improving the quality of data collection for evidence-based decision-making and policy implementation

62. Reliable data on the population movements of displaced persons in Africa is critical for ensuring evidence-based, protection-oriented and holistic responses. Country-level data collection and monitoring is essential, and national, multi-hazard early warning systems must be developed and strengthened to facilitate early action and disaster preparedness.

63. Furthermore, disaggregating existing and new data by sex, age, disability status and other relevant indicators is crucial to understanding the needs, risks, vulnerabilities and coping strategies of diverse groups of displaced persons and to adequately responding to them. Improved data on who is most vulnerable and at risk of displacement and why, including those already on the move, is also needed to better understand and address the drivers of displacement and enable strategies that contribute to prevention and durable solutions. Partnerships for effective monitoring, reporting and verification and the use of technology is essential for improving data collection, analysis and the planning of appropriate humanitarian and development responses.

D. Promoting inclusion and participation

64. Responding and promoting durable solutions to forced displacement is a shared responsibility that necessitates the meaningful and inclusive participation of all stakeholders at all stages and across various sectors, if no one is to be left behind. Multi-stakeholder engagement and coordination is key, including with national and local authorities, host communities, communities of potential or actual return, civil

society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, regional and subregional organizations, the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, bilateral donors and international financial institutions. Consulting and engaging with diverse displaced populations, including women, men, girls, boys, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples and other groups, whether in rural or urban areas, camps or among the general populace, is paramount to finding durable solutions. The meaningful inclusion and participation of displaced persons and host populations, in particular, contributes to fostering tolerance, social cohesion and integration.

65. Because each displacement context is unique, only by engaging all stakeholder groups can appropriate durable solutions be identified. Participation of displaced persons, whether they are in short-term or protracted situations of displacement, contributes to acknowledging and amplifying their agency and helping them to establish a threshold of self-reliance over the long term. In that respect, efforts should be made to replicate and scale up initiatives such as the dialogue with refugee women on the implementation of the OAU convention on refugees that was convened by the African Union and UNHCR in Addis Ababa in June 2019.

E. Financing durable solutions

66. Humanitarian and development financing are both key to promoting durable solutions to forced displacement, which requires public and private investment and the generosity of the international community. In that respect, the United Nations welcomes the decision taken by the States members of the African Union to increase their contributions to the humanitarian assistance fund from 2 per cent to 4 per cent of assessed contributions. I look forward to the outcome of the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit, which is also aimed at mobilizing financial and other resources to support durable solutions to forced displacement. The Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development remain the appropriate instruments for mobilizing resources to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development, which will contribute to creating conditions for durable solutions to forced displacement.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

67. In the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, the importance of people-centred and planet-sensitive approaches that leave no one behind is underscored. In adopting the transformative Agenda 2063, African leaders committed to silencing the guns in order to prevent the root causes of violence and conflict on the continent and to ensuring that the burden of violent and protracted conflicts and related challenges, including forced displacement, was not bequeathed to the next generation. It is indisputable that Africa's leaders and peoples, with the support of the regional and subregional organizations and international partners, have taken significant steps towards fulfilling that commitment. However, much remains to be done, especially to address the drivers and root causes of insecurity, fragility, violent conflicts and displacement.

68. In the context and spirit of the African Union theme for 2019, African countries are encouraged to renew their commitment by ratifying, bringing national law and policies into conformity with and ensuring the meaningful implementation of the key conventions on refugees and internally displaced persons. The quest to achieve the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 will, in turn, contribute to addressing the drivers and root causes of forced displacement. In doing so, there is a need to further strengthen multisectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships and ensure adequate and predictable financial resources for implementation, which will

require concrete and bold actions on the part of African Governments, regional and subregional organizations, civil society and the private sector, as well as international organizations, including the United Nations, international financial institutions and bilateral partners in reinforcing joint efforts towards collective outcomes to reduce the needs, risks and vulnerabilities of displaced persons, increase their resilience and address the root causes of displacement.

69. African Governments, the African Union, the regional economic communities, the United Nations and other stakeholders are required to do more to anticipate and reduce the risk of disaster-related displacement. Early action and support for adaptation are critically important elements for avoiding protracted displacement, which could have substantial implications for sustainable development and human security. African countries should enhance collection of data disaggregated by relevant factors on anticipated and actual disaster displacement and ensure that disaster risk reduction measures put those directly and indirectly affected at the centre of planning and action. Technical and capacity development support is urgently needed in many countries. The application of the guidelines on implementing the Sendai Framework, entitled “Words into action”, launched by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2019, will contribute to addressing those challenges.

70. Urgent measures must be taken to improve climate change adaptation, environmental management, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development actions to help those who are displaced to cushion the short-term, medium-term, and long-term effects and also to build their resilience. African countries, regional and subregional organizations, the private sector and the international community should urgently enhance investment in preventing the adverse effects of climate change and promote integrated action on climate change, human security and development, including through sustainable livelihoods and the equitable use of natural resources.

71. African Member States and the international community, including the United Nations, are encouraged to enhance the exchange of good practices and collaborative actions on key priority issues identified in the plan of action for advancing prevention, protection and solutions for internally displaced persons for the period 2018–2020, namely, law and policy, data, participation, protracted displacement and durable solutions.

72. It is important to find robust and durable solutions that assist displaced persons to transition out of refugee and internally displaced person status, as quickly as possible, and into sustainable livelihoods and to regain their self-esteem and dignity, so that they can contribute meaningfully to their host communities and countries. Accordingly, the international community should help to reduce the burden of protracted displacement, strengthen the capacities of host countries and communities, support their efforts aimed at socioeconomic inclusion, and assist displaced people in acquiring access to educational opportunities, livelihoods and essential services.