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Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for 2026

(Item 3 (a))

Programme 9

United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation

Commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063

1. At its 13th meeting, on 20 May 2025, the Committee considered programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation, commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063, of the proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024 ([A/80/6 \(Sect. 11\)](#)).

Discussion

2. Several delegations reaffirmed their commitment to the goals of the programme and thanked the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Department of Global Communications for the presentation of the programme plan. The continuous implementation of the United Nations-African Union framework for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was welcomed. The view was expressed that the proposed aspirations of the programme, including the effective coordination, coherence and alignment of the United Nations presence in Africa and support to the African Union, helped to ensure a more cohesive and efficient approach to policy delivery across the continent.



3. To strengthen cooperation with African Union organs and institutions, a delegation called for accelerated synergies with the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development, as the main framework to accelerate economic cooperation and integration among African countries and to facilitate public and private infrastructure investment in the continent. It was noted that the framework also served as a platform to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management. With the participation of stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector, among others, the ongoing efforts to fully operationalize the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area were also welcomed to strengthen Africa's resilience, as emphasized in paragraph 11.2. The call for a comprehensive and durable solution to both external and African countries' debt programmes, including through targeted trade capacity-building programmes that supported the efforts of commodity-dependent African countries to restructure, diversify and strengthen competitiveness, was reiterated. In terms of strategic partnerships towards implementation of Agenda 2063, it was recalled that in 2016 leaders in Africa had decided that institutional reforms of the African Union were urgent and necessary, given its role in driving and achieving Agenda 2063. The objective of the African Union reforms remained to fundamentally meet the evolving needs of the member States and to effectively and efficiently spearhead the implementation of Agenda 2063. As significant work was still left to be done in the reform process, the delegation urged the United Nations Secretariat to accelerate efforts in its strategic planning to build the momentum necessary for the successful implementation of those African Union reforms.

4. In reference to the work being done regarding the youth of Africa, clarification was sought as to how efforts towards the goals identified in paragraph 11.21 reflected a "One United Nations" approach. A question was also raised regarding paragraph 11.41 on the importance and the benefits of demonstrating tangible progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the impact that subprogramme 3, Public information and awareness activities in support of Agenda 2063, had on other aspects of the programme.

5. A delegation expressed its opposition to the reinterpretation of sustainable development, which ignored the responsibility of each nation for its development, and, in that regard, it was further stressed that the 2030 Agenda was no longer supported. Nevertheless, the delegation welcomed efforts that streamlined activities across United Nations entities to avoid duplication of work. While it recognized that in paragraph 11.43 the planned target of 7,000 audio plays had not been reached since they did not capture the consumption trends across the region, the delegation sought clarification on how the subprogramme planned to capture the consumption trends in 2026.

6. The adoption of the Pact for the Future was also welcomed by a delegation. The view was expressed that the Pact for the Future was built on the basis of existing commitments in line with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. In ensuring that duplication of actions was avoided, programmes streamlined and resources shared across the United Nations, the delegation raised concerns regarding the appearance of duplication of activities undertaken by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Department of Global Communications. As the three entities shared responsibilities on the development of Africa, a question was raised to elaborate the different tasks of those entities and clarify how they complemented one another. Given the scope of the work of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in integrating women's and gender perspectives into its operational activities, deliverables and results, information was requested to address the respective strengths of the entities in terms of approaches towards women and gender.

7. With regard to financing for development, a support mechanism was requested for African countries to adopt for debt management. The report of the Secretary-General that would be presented later in 2025 included the mechanism and advocacy regarding the changes expected to be seen in financing for development, including the time necessary for countries at risk of default to engage in negotiations with creditors. It was noted that the report also touched on the need to have a system that was much more accessible to African countries at risk of default. Appreciation was expressed for the launch of the self-paced online training course in 2024 by subprogramme 1, Data and knowledge management for evidence-based policies and advocacy in support of Agenda 2063, which gave participants a holistic understanding of leveraging governance, financing and country systems to address peace and development challenges. The online training course made it possible to address the needs of many of the civil servants in African Governments. Following the participation of officials from 26 countries across Africa, additional information was requested on the strategy to make the training course attractive to a larger number of African countries for increased participation. To enhance coordination of United Nations support for Africa and to improve United Nations coordination for the implementation of Agenda 2063, it was recalled that during the sixty-third and sixty-fourth sessions of the Committee a recommendation had been made for the General Assembly to request the Secretary-General to report on the regular meetings held between the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the group of high-level government officials of African States in New York. The importance of having structured meetings with the Group of African States was highlighted. The coordination meetings with the ambassadors of the Group were designed to gather their views and opinions on the implementation of African priorities. In taking stock of the achievement of the goals set out under subprogramme 2, Regional coordination of United Nations support for the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, the delegation observed that those recommendations were not reflected in the proposed programme plan. A justification was sought to explain why those meetings were not held in New York when it was clear that high-level participation of African States was of crucial importance for Africa, and the need was expressed to see that shortcoming rectified. The delegation also drew the attention of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to the fact that during debates on African development by the General Assembly, one of the documents submitted still made reference to the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Given the importance of reflecting Agenda 2063 as a priority, the need for correction was emphasized in order to reflect the implementation of the priorities of the continent in accordance with Agenda 2063.

8. Another delegation emphasized its continued support of the programme plan, aimed at mobilizing the United Nations system to support the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The opportunities for win-win partnerships underscored the spirit of Agenda 2063 and the narrative that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Department of Global Communications put forward relative to Africa's role in terms of development. While Africa's own development trajectory was recognized as being linked to global processes, one of the biggest challenges currently had been its exposure to external shocks. At the same time, however, the successful harnessing of Africa's demographic dividend to the right deployment of technology through technology transfer and investment in strategic sectors truly allowed those win-win partnerships to take place. Support to African countries to champion peace, development and cooperation through a comprehensive strategic partnership was further stressed. The delegation highlighted the spirit of friendship and cooperation with Africa, featuring sincerity, equal treatment, mutual benefit, common development, the upholding of justice, openness and inclusiveness, which was a true reflection of solidarity and a source of strength for long-lasting friendly relations

going forward. It was also pointed out that the world needed true multilateralism, standing on the historic threshold of building a community with a shared future in a new era. The delegation also expressed continued support in working with African friends to realize a joint vision so that the spirit of friendship and cooperation could be passed on and carried forward from generation to generation.

9. The desire of the African population and governance to play a proactive role in global affairs was fully supported by a delegation. In recognition of the long-term partnership with African States, it was necessary to take into account the views of African States when reaching agreement on intergovernmental issues. The opportunity for tapping into Africa's demographic dividend, with a large youth population emerging in Africa, was emphasized. In that context, continued support was expressed to help to scale up the status of Africa as an independent centre of strength. The growing popularity of the new framework and the blueprint for Africa reflected a vision for the continent, as well as the role of Africa as a lead player on the global stage. Support was also expressed for greater opportunities in terms of the work with data and the knowledge base to deliver consultative services, raise awareness and conduct communications, as well as relevant outreach campaigns. It was noted that Africa, a continent of prosperity and a continent of the future, was being built by the young generation. It was viewed that by 2050, the African young population would become the fastest growing population group in the world, taking into account the emphasis placed by the programme on helping to design in each thematic area those initiatives that were focused on youth-based policies and proposals. Given the optimism, it was stressed that the relationship with Africa was rooted in history that was genuinely marked with milestone events, robust bonds of friendship and mutual assistance. The delegation expressed continued support to proactively help in building the human capabilities of African countries, including by raising the number of grants being provided, as well as opening schools and branches of universities in Africa and developing a network of educational centres.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee recommended that the plenary or the relevant Main Committee or Main Committees of the General Assembly, in line with Assembly resolution [79/247](#), consider the programme plan for programme 9, United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation, commitment to the subsequent implementation plans of Agenda 2063, of the proposed programme budget for 2026 under the agenda item entitled “Programme planning” at the eightieth session of the Assembly.**
