

Africa's Agenda 2063: What is in it for Kenya?

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Abstract

The African continent has been lagging behind in development when compared to the rest of the world. As such, there have been various efforts by the African Union and African States to boost growth and development and consequently put Africa at par with the rest of the world. One such development plan is the African Union's Agenda 2063 which is the subject of this paper. The paper looks at how this Agenda can contribute and spur development across different states and especially Kenya. The paper also discusses how Kenya can take advantage of the implementation of Agenda 2063 by different stakeholders to achieve its own development agenda.

1. Introduction

This paper is inspired by Africa's Agenda 2063 – *a shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development*¹ (Agenda 2063) and it seeks to offer some reflections on how Kenya can contribute and benefit from the realisation of this Agenda. Arguably, Africa's success in realisation of the Agenda 2063 mainly depends on individual states' efforts towards implementation of the Agenda.

Africa's Agenda 2063 was unveiled in 2015 as the continent's new long-term vision for the next 50 years.² The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency, the implementing agency of the African Union, has been tasked with fast-tracking the implementation and monitoring of major continental development programmes and frameworks, including Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).³

The African Union Commission and NEPAD Agency are supposed to domesticate the first 10 year Implementation plan into national and regional plans to ensure effective and aligned implementation at national, regional and continental levels.⁴ Various authors have discussed what this development Agenda portends for Africa as a continent.⁵ However, there have been few, if any, commentaries on how this continental Development Blueprint is likely to influence Kenya's development agenda, if at all.

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¹ African Union Commission, *Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want*, 2015, ISBN: 978-92-95104-23-5, adopted at the 24th Ordinary Assembly of the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa in January 2015.

² NEPAD, *Agenda 2063*, available at <http://nepad.org/cop/agenda-2063> [Accessed on 17/04/2020].

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ See generally, Tella, O., "Agenda 2063 and Its Implications for Africa's Soft Power," *Journal of Black Studies* 49, no. 7 (2018): 714-730; Slavova, M., & Okwechime, E., "African smart cities strategies for Agenda 2063," *Africa Journal of Management* 2, no. 2 (2016): 210-229; Vickers, B., *A handbook on regional integration in Africa: Towards Agenda 2063*, Commonwealth Secretariat, 2017; Kararach, G., Besada, H., & Shaw, T., "African development, political economy and the road to Agenda 2063," *Development in Africa: Refocusing the Lens After*

It is against this background that this paper offers some insight on how Kenya can strategically position itself to not only contribute to the realisation of this Agenda but also to benefit from the same.

2. Overview of the Africa's Agenda 2063

The Agenda 2063 contains seven aspirations that are to guide its implementation. These include:⁶ *Aspiration 1*: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development⁷; *Aspiration 2*: An integrated continent; politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance⁸; *Aspiration 3*: An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law⁹; *Aspiration 4*: A peaceful and secure Africa¹⁰; *Aspiration 5*: An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics¹¹; *Aspiration 6*: An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth,

the Millennium Development Goals (2015): 365; Ogbonnaya, U.M., "Terrorism, Agenda 2063 and the challenges of development in Africa," *South African Journal of International Affairs* 23, no. 2 (2016): 185-199; Ndzendze, B. and Monyae, D., "China's belt and road initiative: linkages with the African Union's Agenda 2063 in historical perspective," *Transnational Corporations Review* (2019): 1-12; Zhang, H., & Tesfaye, N., "Alignment of Belt and Road Initiative with Africa Agenda 2063," In *3rd International Symposium on Asian B&R Conference on International Business Cooperation (ISBCD 2018)*, Atlantis Press, 2018; DeGhetto, K., Gray, J. R., & Kiggundu, M. N., "The African Union's Agenda 2063: aspirations, challenges, and opportunities for management research," *Africa Journal of Management* 2, no. 1 (2016): 93-116; le Pere, G., "Harnessing Africa's External Trade Partnerships for 'Agenda 2063'," (2017); Achieng', R.M., "Can We Speak of African Agency?: APRM and Africa's Agenda 2063," *African Sociological Review / Revue Africaine De Sociologie* 18, no. 1 (2014): 49-64.

⁶ African Union Commission, *Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want*, 2015.

⁷ *Aspiration 1: A Prosperous Africa based on inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development*: ending poverty, inequalities of income and opportunity; job creation, especially addressing youth unemployment; facing up to the challenges of rapid population growth and urbanization, improvement of habitats and access to basic necessities of life – water, sanitation, electricity; providing social security and protection; developing Africa's human and social capital (through an education and skills revolution emphasizing science and technology) and expanding access to quality health care services, particularly for women and girls; transforming Africa's economies through beneficiation from Africa's natural resources, manufacturing, industrialization and value addition, as well as raising productivity and competitiveness; radically transforming African agriculture to enable the continent to feed itself and be a major player as a net food exporter; exploiting the vast potential of Africa's blue/ocean economy; and finally putting in place measures to sustainably manage the continent's rich biodiversity, forests, land and waters and using mainly adaptive measures to address Climate change risks.

⁸ *Aspiration 2: An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance*: accelerating progress towards continental unity and integration for sustained growth, trade, exchanges of goods, services, free movement of people and capital through: (i) establishing a United Africa; (ii) fast tracking of the CFTA; (iii) improving connectivity through newer and bolder initiatives to link the continent by rail, road, sea and air; and (iv) developing regional and continental power pools, as well as ICT.

⁹ *Aspiration 3: An Africa of good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law*: consolidating democratic gains and improving the quality of governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law; building strong institutions for a development state; and facilitating the emergence of development-oriented and visionary leadership in all spheres and at all levels.

¹⁰ *Aspiration 4: A peaceful and secure Africa*: strengthening governance, accountability and transparency as a foundation for a peaceful Africa; strengthening mechanisms for securing peace and reconciliation at all levels, as well as addressing emerging threats to Africa's peace and security; and putting in place strategies for the continent to finance her security needs.

¹¹ *Aspiration 5: An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics*: inculcating the spirit of Pan Africanism; tapping Africa's rich heritage and culture to ensure that the creative arts are major contributors to Africa's growth and transformation; and restoring and preserving Africa's cultural heritage, including its languages.

and caring for children¹²; and *Aspiration 7*: Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner¹³. Notably, the Agenda mainly covers the areas of: social and economic development; integration, democratic governance and peace and security amongst others.¹⁴

The implementation of the Agenda 2063 is to be carried out in phases. The first phase covers the first ten years from the years 2013 to 2023. The First Ten Year Implementation Plan, the first in a series of five ten year plans over the fifty year horizon was adopted by the Summit in June 2015 as a basis for the preparation of medium term development plans of member states of the Union, the Regional Economic Communities and the AU Organs.¹⁵

In summary, the Agenda 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan document seeks to: identify priority areas, their associated targets/expected outcomes and indicative strategies to stakeholders; highlight the fast track programmes/ projects that will bring quick wins and generate and sustain the interest of the African Citizenry in the African Agenda; assign responsibilities and accountabilities to all stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the plan and outline the strategies required to ensure resource and capacity availability and sustained citizen's engagement for plan execution.¹⁶

The focus areas for the implementation of the Agenda include but are not limited to: Sustainable and inclusive economic growth; Human Capital Development; Agriculture/value addition and agro-businesses development; Employment generation, especially the youth and females; Social Protection; Gender / Women development and youth empowerment; Good governance including capable institutions; Infrastructural development; Science, Technology, Innovation; Manufacturing-based industrialization; Peace and Security; and Culture, Arts and Sports.¹⁷

Of utmost importance are the implementation, monitoring and evaluation responsibilities of Key Stakeholders, including Member States, towards the Agenda. The Member States are required to: Adopt/integrate Agenda 2063 and the associated Ten Year Implementation Plans as the basis for developing their national visions and plans; Use the national planning systems- structures for implementation monitoring and evaluation, methodologies, systems and processes, rules and regulations, forms and

¹² *Aspiration 6*: An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children: strengthening the role of Africa's women through ensuring gender equality and parity in all spheres of life (political, economic and social); eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls; creating opportunities for Africa's youth for self-realization, access to health, education and jobs; and ensuring safety and security for Africa's children, and providing for early childhood development.

¹³ *Aspiration 7*: Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner: improving Africa's place in the global governance system (UNSC, financial institutions, global commons such as outer space); improving Africa's partnerships and refocusing them more strategically to respond to African priorities for growth and transformation; and ensuring that the continent has the right strategies to finance its own development and reducing aid dependency.

¹⁴ . African Union, An Overview of Agenda 2063, available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33126-doc-11_an_overview_of_agenda.pdf [Accessed on 17/04/2020].

¹⁵ African Union, *Agenda 2063: First Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2014 – 2023*, September 2015. Available at <https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/agenda2063-first10yearimplementation.pdf> [Accessed on 17/04/2020].

¹⁶ Ibid. African Union, An Overview of Agenda 2063, available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33126-doc-11_an_overview_of_agenda.pdf [Accessed on 17/04/2020].

¹⁷ Ibid.

formats in the execution of Agenda 2063; Develop policy guidelines on the design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation by various stakeholders; Ensure that the Legislature adopts Agenda 2063 as the blue print for Africa's social, economic and political development in the next 50 years; and encourage all political parties / private candidates use Agenda 2063 as a basis for preparing their political manifestos.¹⁸

This Agenda is also geared towards achieving sustainable development agenda in the greater African continent. It is worth pointing out that the United Nations *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*¹⁹ has since been launched. There have even been efforts to integrate the implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in Africa.²⁰ For instance, at the annual Africa Week in October 2015 held at the United Nations headquarters, representatives of the African Union's development institutions held discussions with their UN counterparts on the AU's Agenda 2063 and the newly-adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Although they bear some differences, the two agendas were considered to be mutually supportive and coherent.²¹

Also notable is the fact that in achieving the main goals of these development plans, State Parties have specific roles to play towards social and economic development; integration, democratic governance and peace and security amongst others, which themes feature in both Agendas. It is for this reason that individual African States, including Kenya, have a role to play not only to achieve their national development plans but also to contribute towards achieving the continental Agenda. The next section focuses specifically on Kenya and how the country can contribute towards realisation of Agenda 2063 while also achieving her own domestic development plan, including Vision 2030, the Big Four Agenda, amongst others.

3. Realising Africa's Agenda 2063: Integrating the Agenda 2063 into Kenya's Domestic Development Agenda

Kenya's *Vision 2030* is the long-term development blueprint for the country and is motivated by a collective aspiration for a better society by the year 2030.²²

¹⁸ African Union, *Agenda 2063: First Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2014 – 2023*, op. cit., p. 25.

¹⁹ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1.

²⁰ United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, "Implementing Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in an Integrated and Coherent Manner in Africa: Moving Forward (21 September 2016)", *High-level Event*, available at <https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/events/2016/mdgtosdgagenda2063.shtml> [Accessed on 17/04/2020].

"The objective of the side event on "implementing Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 in an integrated and coherent manner" was to ensure that the highest offices, including the African group in New York and other relevant stake holders are fully aware of what the continent is doing with regard to the implementation of the regional and global agenda in an integrated manner. It also discussed how to put efforts together to effectively implement the development frameworks in Africa."

²¹ Kuwonu, F., "Agenda 2063 is in harmony with SDGs," *Africa Renewal, Online Magazine*, December 2015, available at <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2015/agenda-2063-harmony-sdgs> [Accessed on 17/04/2020].

²² Republic of Kenya, 'About Vision 2030', available at <http://vision2030.go.ke/about-vision-2030/> [Accessed on 17/04/2020].

The aim of Kenya Vision 2030 is to create “a globally competitive and prosperous country with a high quality of life by 2030”. It aims to transform Kenya into “a newly-industrialising, middle income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens in a clean and secure environment”.²³

The economic, social and political pillars of Kenya Vision 2030 are anchored on the foundations of macroeconomic stability; infrastructural development; Science, Technology and Innovation (STI); Land Reforms; Human Resources Development; Security and Public Sector Reforms.²⁴ The Vision 2030 is to be implemented through successive five-year medium term plans. The current stage of implementation is the Third Medium Term Plan (MTP III) 2018-2022 whose theme is dubbed *Transforming Lives: Advancing socio-economic development through the “Big Four”*.²⁵ The Second Medium Term Plan (MTP II) 2013-2017 was meant to achieve progress in development and modernisation of infrastructure, improved security, human resource development, job creation, expanding access to affordable health care, and in modernizing the country’s public services.²⁶ As to whether the progress in these areas was felt across the country remains both a development and political question.

Currently, Kenya is thus pursuing the ‘BIG FOUR’ Agenda that seeks to ensure universal health coverage, affordable and decent housing, to increase the manufacturing contribution to the economy from 9.8 per cent to 15 per cent and guarantee food and nutrition security by 2022. The Kenya government’s projects under the Big Four Agenda were allocated \$4.3 billion from the \$28 billion 2019/2020 budget.²⁷ Universal health coverage got \$906 million; manufacturing \$40.8 million; affordable housing \$183 million; and food and nutrition security \$177 million.²⁸

As already pointed out, the Agenda 2063 focuses on several areas of development including but not limited to: Sustainable and inclusive economic growth; Human Capital Development; Agriculture/value addition and agro-businesses development; Employment generation, especially the youth and females; Social Protection; Gender/Women development and youth empowerment; Good governance including capable institutions; Infrastructural development; Science, Technology, Innovation; Manufacturing-based industrialization; Peace and Security; and Culture, Arts and Sports.²⁹

These development themes notably overlap at the national and continental levels and it can thus be argued that the achievement of the national plans can greatly succeed by building synergies with the continental implementation plans especially as captured in the Agenda 2063 First Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2014-2023. The dream of a successful continent can only be achieved through ensuring that the member States are not only supporting the realisation of Agenda 2063 but also ensuring that their national development plans are in harmony with the Agenda and that they are actually achieved not just a matter

²³ ‘About Vision 2030’, available at <http://vision2030.go.ke/about-vision-2030/> [Accessed on 17/04/2020].

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Republic of Kenya, “Third Medium Term Plan 2018-2022,” available at <http://vision2030.go.ke/publication/third-medium-term-plan-2018-2022/> [Accessed on 17/04/2020].

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Njiraiini Muchira, “Uhuru legacy projects get \$4.3b despite slow progress,” *The East African*, Sunday, June 16, 2019. Available at <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/business/Uhuru-legacy-projects-get-allocation/2560-5158394-chdf89z/index.html> [Accessed on 17/04/2020].

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

of wishful thinking. Kenya's key development issues are especially among those given prominence in the Africa's Agenda 2063. These include infrastructure, health, manufacturing, affordable housing and food and nutrition security, amongst others.

Africa's Agenda 2063 has set forth certain milestones related to integration, prosperity, and African ownership of its development programmes.³⁰ Further milestones are related to structural transformation, human development, good governance and on innovation and technology transfer.³¹ Some of the most significant milestones on innovation and technology transfer are building a better infrastructure, engineering and manufacturing base that shows significant increase in local content and input, increased science, technology and innovation (STI) output at national and regional levels and increased human capacity for science and technology and stimulating entrepreneurship through an increased number of added value products and services.³²

Infrastructure is considered as bedrock for development, whereby, as an essential part of a supportive environment for investment and livelihood, adequate infrastructure promotes economic growth, reduces poverty, and improves delivery of health and other services.³³ A survey by Afrobarometer, a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa, reported that provision of basic service infrastructure remains a challenge. On average across 35 African countries, only about two-thirds of citizens live in communities with an electric grid (65%) and/or piped water infrastructure (63%), and less than one in three have access to sewerage (30%). More than three times as many have access to cell phone service (93%), while about half (54%) live in zones with tarred or paved roads.³⁴ Rural residents continue to be severely disadvantaged in most countries, with urban-rural gaps of more than 40 percentage points in the average availability of an electric grid, sewerage, and piped water infrastructure.³⁵ This is despite the high priority assigned to infrastructure by both citizens and their governments in many African countries. Nevertheless, access to basic services remains highly variable across countries and regions.³⁶

³⁰ Achieng', R.M., "Can We Speak of African Agency? APRM and Africa's Agenda 2063," *African Sociological Review / Revue Africaine De Sociologie* 18, no. 1 (2014): 49-64, p. 61.

³¹ Ibid, p.61.

³² Ibid, p.61.

³³ Mitullah, W. V., Samson, R., Wambua, P. M., & Balongo, S., "Building on progress: Infrastructure development still a major challenge in Africa," *Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 69*, 14 January 2016. Available at <https://www.africaportal.org/publications/building-on-progress-infrastructure-development-still-a-major-challenge-in-africa/> [Accessed on 17/04/2020].

³⁴ Mitullah, W. V., Samson, R., Wambua, P. M., & Balongo, S., "Building on progress: Infrastructure development still a major challenge in Africa," *Afrobarometer Dispatch No. 69*, 14 January 2016, p. 3.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid; See also United Nations, "Regional overview: sub-Saharan Africa," *Education for All Global Monitoring Report*, 2011. Available at <https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/gem-report/files/191393e.pdf> [Accessed on 17/04/2020]; Ayodele Odusola, Giovanni Andrea Cornia, Haroon Borat and Pedro Conceição (eds), "Income Inequality Trends in sub-Saharan Africa: Divergence, Determinants and Consequences," *Overview*, United Nations Development programme, 2017; Deaton, A. S., & Tortora, R., "People in sub-Saharan Africa rate their health and health care among the lowest in the world." *Health Affairs* 34, no. 3 (2015): 519-527.

Africa is also considered as the continent with the world's highest mortality rates, and it is the only continent where deaths from infectious disease still outnumber deaths from chronic disease.³⁷ Indeed, Sub-Saharan Africans' overall evaluation of their well-being has been reported to be lower than that of any other population in the world.³⁸ The Low well-being is also largely attributed to low incomes in sub-Saharan Africa.³⁹ Arguably, this is an indication of the interconnectedness of the various socio-economic rights and thus the need for an integrated approach to development.

The Government of Kenya's *Sector Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation 2013-2017* recognises that Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) play a pivotal role in the industrialization, sustainable development and growth of nations. Investments and integration of ST&I into social, economic and governance policies is expected to increase Kenya's global competitiveness, create employment and increase productivity.⁴⁰ This was developed in line with the recognition that the Kenya Vision 2030 and the Constitution explicitly place a premium on the generation and management of a knowledge-based economy and the need to raise productivity and efficiency.⁴¹ While Kenya has made significant progress in the area of science, technology and innovation, it is worth pointing out that this is a sector that requires cooperation among countries especially if the same is to be used to promote and sustain cross-border trade. Also closely related to this is manufacturing and value addition. This will go a long way in enhancing national incomes as well as boosting agricultural production. Investing in people and technology transfer from developed states will boost Africa's manufacturing industries. Value addition for agricultural produce will also boost Africa's standing at the global platform as far as trade and commerce are concerned.

This is why Agenda 2063's focus on promoting the growth and development of science, technology and innovation is a welcome move that requires goodwill and concerted efforts of all stakeholders. Both Agenda 2063 and Kenya's Vision 2030 seek to promote environmental rule of law which is central to sustainable development, a concept that seeks to integrate environmental needs with the essential elements of the rule of law, and provides the basis for improving environmental governance.⁴² However, while the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and other post constitution statutes and policy documents recognise the centrality of sustainable development, Kenya still has a long way to go in achieving sustainable production and development practices. Agenda 2063 seeks to promote environmentally sustainable climate and resilient economies and communities. Arguably, this will not be achieved unless individual states put in place national measures geared towards this. Individual efforts coupled with concerted efforts from all African governments will ensure that Africa achieves its targets under Agenda 2063 as well as United Nations Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development.

³⁷ Deaton, A. S., & Tortora, R., "People in sub-Saharan Africa rate their health and health care among the lowest in the world." *Health Affairs* 34, no. 3 (2015): 519-527, at p. 519.

³⁸ Ibid, p. 520.

³⁹ Ibid, p. 521.

⁴⁰ Republic of Kenya, *Sector Plan for Science, Technology and Innovation 2013-2017*, available at research.tukenya.ac.ke/images/Sector-Plan-for-Science-and-Technology.pdf [Accessed on 17/04/2020].

⁴¹ Ibid, p.1. Science, Technology and Innovation Act, No. 28 of 2013, Laws of Kenya, was enacted to facilitate the promotion, co-ordination and regulation of the progress of science, technology and innovation of the country; to assign priority to the development of science, technology and innovation; to entrench science, technology and innovation into the national production system and for connected purposes.

⁴² See generally, UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1.

Sustainable agricultural production features in both AU Agenda 2063 and Kenya's Agenda 2030. If the African continent is to guarantee food and nutritional security for its people, then there must be cooperation amongst states in research and tackling infrastructure challenges that make it difficult to access and/or distribute food across countries and regions. Boosting agricultural production also requires land reforms across various states. There is need for supporting the agricultural sector through modern methods of production, guaranteeing farmers protection from foreign invasion of markets especially those outside Africa, good infrastructure, investing in value addition and enhancing national food storage and preservation facilities, amongst others.

Gender parity is a subject that is still relevant not only in Kenya but across many African societies. Investing in both men and women will go a long way in realisation of Africa's development agenda. Putting in place empowerment measures such as fair labour practices and protection from all forms of violence is important. While having domestic laws on gender equality and equity is important, there is need for strong reporting mechanisms within the Agenda 2063 implementation framework, in order to ensure that no state is left behind as far as this issue is concerned. Some parts of Kenya and Africa in general still suffer violence and general insecurity. Some concerted efforts towards promoting peace and stability in the continent are still required as a basis for meaningful development.

4. Conclusion

Africa is a Continent that is rich in natural resources and cultural diversity amongst its many communities. However, it has lagged behind in development and protection of its riches both in terms of diverse communities and source of wealth for the rest of the world. Agenda 2063 promises to coordinate the various countries' development agenda through outlining a development blueprint that should be used as a yardstick to ensure that the Continent moves forward as one. Kenya can work closely with other states to not only realise this Agenda but to also benefit from the same. Africa as a continent can certainly achieve the vision of prosperity. There is a lot for Kenya in this dream. Kenya can contribute and benefit from the realisation of Africa's Agenda 2063.

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