

Actualizing Agenda 2063 for Sustainable Development in Africa

Kariuki Muigua

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Actualizing Agenda 2063 for Sustainable Development in Africa

Kariuki Muigua*

Abstract

This paper critically examines the role of Agenda 2063 in fostering Sustainable Development in Africa. It discusses the salient provisions of Agenda 2063 and their efficacy in spurring Sustainable Development. The paper further explores the progress and challenges facing the realization of Agenda 2063. It suggests measures towards actualizing Agenda 2063 for Sustainable Development in Africa.

* PhD in Law (Nrb), FCI Arb (Chartered Arbitrator), LL. B (Hons) Nrb, LL.M (Environmental Law) Nrb; Dip. In Law (KSL); FCPS (K); Dip. in Arbitration (UK); MKIM; Mediator; Consultant: Lead expert EIA/EA NEMA; BSI ISO/IEC 27001:2005 ISMS Lead Auditor/ Implementer; ESG Consultant; Advocate of the High Court of Kenya; Senior Lecturer at the University of Nairobi, Faculty of Law; Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) [October, 2023].

1.0 Introduction

Realizing Sustainable Development has become a pertinent concern in the wake of global challenges including climate change, poverty, food insecurity and hunger, environmental degradation and inequalities between and among nations¹. Sustainable Development is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs². It has also been described under the *Environmental Management and Coordination Act* of Kenya as development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs by maintaining the carrying capacity of the supporting ecosystems³. Essentially, Sustainable Development seeks to foster *intra-generational equity*, that is equity among present generations, and *inter-generational equity*, that is equity between generations⁴. (Emphasis added) The idea of Sustainable Development encompasses environmental protection, economic development and social concerns⁵.

The concept of Sustainable Development has been embraced as the global blueprint for development as envisioned under the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which captures the global goals towards securing environmental, economic, social and political development and sustainability for the sake of current and future generations⁶. The Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity⁷. It

¹ United Nations., 'The Sustainable Development Agenda.' Available at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/#:~:text=Frequently%20Asked%20Questions-What%20is%20sustainable%20development%3F,to%20meet%20their%20own%20needs>. (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

² World Commission on Environment and Development., 'Our Common Future.' Oxford, (Oxford University Press, 1987)

³ Environmental Management and Coordination Act., No. 8 of 1999, Laws of Kenya, S 2

⁴ Weiss, E.B., "In Fairness to Future Generations and Sustainable Development," *American University International Law Review*, Vol.8, 1992

⁵ Fitzmaurice. M., 'The Principle of Sustainable Development in International Development Law.' *International Sustainable Development Law.*, Vol 1.

⁶ United Nations., 'Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

⁷ Ibid

also seeks to strengthen peace in larger freedom and eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions⁸. At the heart of the Agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which envisage achievement of Sustainable Development by meeting targets such as ending extreme poverty, promoting food security, promoting access to health and education, achieving gender equality, promoting access to clean water and sanitation, ensuring access to affordable and clean energy, enhancing industry, innovation and infrastructure and combating climate change⁹.

Achieving Sustainable Development is a fundamental concern in Africa. The continent continues to face numerous challenges such as poverty, hunger, food insecurity, drought, water scarcity, climate change, unemployment and inequalities which threaten the Sustainable Development agenda¹⁰. However, it has also been observed that the continent is making some progress towards implementing the sustainable development goals¹¹. It has also been argued that actualizing the aspirations, goals, and targets of the African Union's Agenda 2063 can accelerate the Sustainable Development agenda in Africa¹².

This paper critically examines the role of Agenda 2063 in fostering Sustainable Development in Africa. It discusses the salient provisions of Agenda 2063 and their efficacy in spurring Sustainable Development. The paper further explores the progress and challenges facing the realization of Agenda 2063. It suggests measures towards actualizing Agenda 2063 for Sustainable Development in Africa.

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ African Development Bank., 'The way Forward to Achieving Sustainable Development in Africa.' Available at https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/ADR15_chapter_8.pdf (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

¹¹ United Nations Development Programme., '2023 Africa Sustainable Development Report.' Available at <https://www.undp.org/africa/publications/2023-africa-sustainable-development-report> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

¹² Ibid

2.0 Overview of Agenda 2063

Agenda 2063 is founded on the African Union vision of an *'integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena*¹³. (Emphasis added) It sets out the continent's shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and Sustainable Development that takes into account past achievements, challenges and opportunities at the national, continental and global levels to provide the basis and context in which the continent's transformation is being designed and implemented¹⁴. Agenda 2063 is premised on seven aspirations. These are *Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development*¹⁵; *Aspiration 2: An integrated continent; politically united and based on the ideals of PanAfricanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance*¹⁶; *Aspiration 3: An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law*¹⁷; *Aspiration 4: A peaceful and secure Africa*¹⁸; *Aspiration 5: An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics*¹⁹; *Aspiration 6: An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and*

¹³ African Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want.' Available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33126-doc-framework_document_book.pdf (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Aspiration 1 seeks to achieve several goals including high standards of living, quality of life and well-being; well-educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation; healthy and well-nourished citizens; modern, affordable and liveable habitats; transformed economies; modern agriculture for increased production, productivity and value addition; sustainable governance of Africa's blue/ ocean economy and environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities.

¹⁶ Aspiration 2 seeks to achieve the ideal of a united Africa (federal or confederate) and development of world class infrastructure that crisscrosses Africa.

¹⁷ Aspiration 3 focuses on entrenching democratic values, practices, and respect for universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law and promoting capable institutions and transformative leadership in place at all levels.

¹⁸ Aspiration 4 seeks to foster an entrenched culture of peace in Africa; security and safety for all citizens in Africa; and mechanisms to promote and defend the continent's collective security and interests.

¹⁹ Aspiration 5 seeks to realize Pan Africanism and African Cultural Renaissance.

youth, and caring for children²⁰; and *Aspiration 7*: Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner²¹.

The aspirations of Agenda 2063 mainly cover the areas of: social and economic development; integration, democratic governance and peace and security amongst others²². Agenda 2063 builds on past achievements and challenges and takes into account the continental and global context and trends in which Africa is realizing its transformation, including: The Pan African vision and project; lessons from global development experiences; learning from past and present African development efforts and challenges and forging an African-centred approach to transformation; people-centered development, gender equality and youth empowerment and the changing global context²³.

It has been rightly pointed out that Agenda 2063 is geared towards achieving Sustainable Development in Africa²⁴. Agenda 2063 sets out several targets that are vital in realizing the ideal of Sustainable Development in Africa including eradicating poverty; providing opportunities for all Africans to have decent and affordable housing in clean, secure and well planned environments; fostering education and skills revolution and actively promoting science, technology, research and innovation; transforming, growing and industrializing African economies through beneficiation and value addition of natural resources; consolidating the modernisation of African agriculture and agro-businesses; combating climate change and fostering environmental conservation; connecting Africa

²⁰ Aspiration 6 focuses on achieving gender equality in all spheres of life; engagement and empowerment of the youth; and caring for children.

²¹ Aspiration 7 seeks to achieve the position of Africa as a major social, political and economic force in the world, with her rightful share of the global commons (land, oceans and space); an active and equal participant in global affairs, multilateral institutions, and a driver for peaceful co-existence, tolerance and a sustainable and just world; and a continent that is fully capable and have the means to finance her development.

²² African Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want.' Op Cit

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Muigua. K., 'Africa's Agenda 2063: What is in it for Kenya?' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Africa%E2%80%99s-Agenda-2063-What-is-in-it-for-Kenya-Kariuki-Muigua-28th-June-2019.pdf> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

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through world-class infrastructure; fostering gender equality and empowerment of the youths in all sectors; and strengthening domestic resource mobilization²⁵.

The aspirations, goals and targets of Agenda 2063 fit well within the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It has been pointed out that Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are mutually supportive and coherent²⁶. They can unlock virtually all the SDGs in Africa by ending poverty, promoting food security, fostering good health and well-being, promoting quality education, achieving gender equality, ensuring access to clean water and sanitation, enhancing access to affordable and clean energy, promoting decent work and economic growth, fostering industry, innovation and infrastructure, combating climate change, ensuring sound governance of the environment and natural resources and realizing peace, justice and strong institutions in Africa²⁷. The African Union asserts that the SDGs fit neatly into the twenty goals of Agenda 2063²⁸. Agenda 2063 is wide in scope, covering social, economic and sustainability considerations in the broader context of political, cultural and other African priorities hence by implementing Agenda 2063, African countries will also be meeting global obligations under the SDGs²⁹. Actualizing Agenda 2063 can therefore accelerate Sustainable Development in Africa.

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Muigua. K., 'Africa's Agenda 2063: What is in it for Kenya?' Op Cit

²⁷ United Nations., 'Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' Op Cit

²⁸ African Union., 'Agenda 2063-SDGs.' Available at

<https://au.int/en/ea/statistics/a2063sdgs#:~:text=SDGs%20scope%20is%20confined%20to,cultural%20and%20other%20African%20priorities>. (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

²⁹ Ibid

3.0 Progress made towards Actualizing Agenda 2063

In order to actualize Agenda 2063, the African Union adopted ten year implementation plans with the First Ten Year Implementation Plan covering the period from 2013 to 2023³⁰. The First Ten Year Implementation Plan identifies priority areas for actualizing Agenda 2063 including sustainable and inclusive economic growth, human capital development, agriculture/value addition and agrobusiness development, employment generation, social protection, gender equality and youth empowerment , good governance, infrastructural development, industrialization, science, technology and innovation, and peace and security³¹. It seeks to: identify priority areas, their associated targets and expected outcomes and indicative strategies to stakeholders; highlight the fast track programmes and 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 execution³².

According to the First Ten Year Implementation Plan, achievement of the set targets by the year 2023 will transform Africa through improvements in living standards, transformed, inclusive and sustainable economies, regional and continental integration, empowered women, youth and children, and a well governed, peaceful and cultural centric Africa in a global context³³. It sets out the implementation, monitoring and evaluation responsibilities of key stakeholders including member states, regional economic communities and the African Union organs³⁴.

According to the First Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063, the continent has made some remarkable progress towards attaining the goals identified in

³⁰ Africa Union., 'The First-Ten Year Implementation Plan.' Available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33126-doc-11_an_overview_of_agenda.pdf (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

³¹ Ibid

³² Ibid

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Ibid

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Agenda 2063's First Ten Year Implementation Plan³⁵. The report notes the progress made towards meeting the goals of Agenda 2063 within the SDGs framework in Africa³⁶. Some notable progress towards this end includes improvement of the standard of living, quality of life and well-being as evidenced by increased electricity access, improvement in health services in some countries, enhanced access to safe drinking water, increased access to internet and reduction in unemployment rates in some countries³⁷. The report further notes improvement in the education sector through increased enrolment rates especially in basic education³⁸. However, the report also notes the slow progress made in attaining some of the goals of Agenda 2063 that have a bearing on the SDGs including job creation, food security, the blue economy, and environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities³⁹.

The Second Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 further lauds achievements made towards actualizing Agenda 2063 including implementation of the flagship projects under the Agenda and operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)⁴⁰. The report indicates that overall performance and implementation of Agenda 2063 stood at 51% compared to a score of 32% identified in the First Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063⁴¹. The report notes the progress made towards creating incomes, jobs and decent work; tackling poverty, inequality and hunger; enhancing access to basic quality services including the internet; promoting education, science, technology and innovation; enhancing health and nutrition; improving agriculture and food security; unlocking the blue/ocean economy;

³⁵ Africa Union., 'First Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063.' Available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/38060-doc-agenda_2063_implementation_report_en_web_version.pdf (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ Africa Union., 'Second Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063.' Available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/41480-doc-2nd_Continental_Progress_Report_on_Agenda_2063_English.pdf (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

⁴¹ Ibid

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and achievement of environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities⁴². It also acknowledges the slow progress made in realizing some of the goals of Agenda 2063 in some African countries as evidenced by cases of unemployment, poverty, inequality, food insecurity, the threat of climate change and inadequate access to education and health among other services⁴³. The report further acknowledges the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the realization of the goals of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs in Africa⁴⁴.

From the foregoing, it is evident that there has been mixed performance in actualizing the aspirations, goals and targets of Agenda 2063 as set out in the First Ten Year Implementation Plan. It has been noted that some African countries have made progress towards meeting some of the goals set out under Agenda 2063 through initiatives such as increase in the volume of intra-African trade, increase in access to electricity, increase in access to safe drinking water, improvements in standards of health and promotion of gender equality and youth empowerment⁴⁵. However, it has also been pointed out that Africa's progress on the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063 aspirations has been uneven, with significant differences among sub-regions, countries, and rural and urban areas⁴⁶. Consequently, there are some pressing challenges facing the realization of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs in Africa.

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ United Nations Development Programme., 'Eswatini Takes Stock of Progress Towards Agenda 2063.' Available at <https://www.undp.org/eswatini/press-releases/eswatini-takes-stock-progress-towards-agenda-2063> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

⁴⁶ African Development Bank Group., 'Africa's SDGs Progress Uneven, Requires Accelerated Efforts to Meet the 2030 Deadline –Report' Available at <https://smartwatermagazine.com/news/african-development-bank-group/africas-sdgs-progress-uneven-requires-accelerated-efforts-meet> (Accessed on 23/10/2023)

4.0 Problems hindering Realization of Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development in Africa

Despite the aspirations of Agenda 2063 to combat poverty in Africa, the continent still suffers from significant levels of poverty that hinders the attainment of Sustainable Development⁴⁷. It has been observed that persistent poverty and inequality are likely to undermine prosperity, peace and security in Africa unless governments embark on innovative and people-entered development models⁴⁸. Further, despite the targets of Agenda 2063 to enhance food and nutrition security, most parts of the continent have continued to face a severe and enduring food crisis with millions of people in Africa facing extreme hunger⁴⁹. For example, the horn of Africa region is facing a hunger crisis with an estimated number of more than 23 million people across parts of Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia facing severe hunger⁵⁰. This problem is related to water scarcity with most regions facing dire water shortages as a result of drought⁵¹. This has worsened the food situation in Africa as a result of death of livestock and drying up of crops.

Further, despite the aspiration and goal of Agenda 2063 to foster good health and well-being of all citizens in Africa, this target is yet to be realized. It has been pointed out that less than half of Africa's citizens have access to the healthcare they need, the continent's quality of health services is generally poor and the family planning needs of half the

⁴⁷ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa., 'Rising Poverty, Inequalities threaten Sustainable Development Goals.' Available at <https://www.uneca.org/stories/rising-poverty%2C-inequalities-threaten-sustainable-development-goals#:~:text=Rising%20poverty%2C%20inequalities%20threaten%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals,-21%20March%2C%202023&text=Addis%20Ababa%2C%202021%20March%202023,and%20people%2Dentered%20development%20models>. (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ British Red Cross., 'Africa Food Crisis: More than 160 million People are Going Hungry.' Available at <https://www.redcross.org.uk/stories/disasters-and-emergencies/world/africa-hunger-crisis-100-million-struggling-to-eat> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁵⁰ World Food Programme., 'Horn of Africa Hunger Crisis Pushes Millions to the Brink.' Available at <https://www.wfp.org/stories/horn-africa-hunger-crisis-pushes-millions-brink> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁵¹ UNICEF., 'Water Crisis in the Horn of Africa.' Available at <https://www.unicef.org/documents/water-crisis-horn-africa> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

continent's women and girls are unmet⁵². In addition, despite the attempts made towards enhancing access to education in Africa, inequalities, inefficiencies and exclusion at all levels are still evident in the sector⁵³. For example, it has been observed that even with a substantial increase in the number of children with access to basic education, a large number still remain out of school⁵⁴. Further, despite the aspiration, goal and targets of Agenda 2063 to enhance access to energy in Africa, access to energy represents one of Africa's greatest obstacles to social and economic development⁵⁵. It has been pointed out that a majority of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa lack access to clean and affordable energy and depend on traditional fuels⁵⁶. Africa still has high levels of energy poverty and faces energy justice concerns which hinder the realization of the Sustainable Development agenda⁵⁷.

One of the key aspirations under Agenda 2063 is to confront climate change and foster climate resilient economies and communities in Africa⁵⁸. Africa is classified as a continent that is highly vulnerable to climate change due to several reasons including endemic poverty and high dependence on rain-fed agriculture, complex governance and institutional dimensions, limited access to capital including markets and technology, weak infrastructure, ecosystem degradation and poor management of natural resources,

⁵² Cullivan. K., 'Universal Health Coverage: Only Half of Africans Have Access to Health Care.' Available at <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/only-half-of-africans-have-access-to-health-care/#:~:text=Less%20than%20half%20of%20Africa's,women%20and%20girls%20are%20unmet>. (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁵³ Musau. Z., 'Africa Grapples with Huge Disparities in Education.' Available at <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2017-march-2018/africa-grapples-huge-disparities-education#:~:text=It%20is%20widely%20accepted%20that,still%20remain%20out%20of%20school>. (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵ Hafner. M., 'The Challenge of Energy Access in Africa.' Available at https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-92219-5_1 (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁵⁶ Bildirici. M & Ozaksoy.F., 'Woody Biomass Energy Consumption and Economic Growth in SubSaharan Africa' *Procedia Economics and Finance* 38 (2016) 287 – 293

⁵⁷ Muigua. K., 'Towards Energy Justice in Kenya.' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Towards-Energy-Justice-in-Kenya-00000005.pdf> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁵⁸ African Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want.' Op Cit

disasters both natural and man-made and conflicts⁵⁹. This vulnerability is worsened by strong dependence of African economies on climate sensitive natural resources⁶⁰. It has been observed that African countries are already experiencing effects of climate change such as drought, water scarcity, flooding among others⁶¹. Climate change is having a devastating impact on the African continent creating food insecurity, stressing water resources, depleting human health, displacing populations and impeding socio-economic development⁶². It has been observed that in Africa, approximately 50 million people are on the brink of falling below the poverty line for reasons connected to climate change, 100 million people are at risk of being displaced by climate change, and about 600 million people lack energy access⁶³.

Climate change is therefore one of the key challenges hindering the realization of the SDGs in Africa. The African Development Bank Group notes that despite having contributed the least to global warming and having the lowest emissions, Africa faces exponential collateral damage from the effects of climate change posing systemic risks to its economies, infrastructure investments, water and food systems, public health, agriculture, and livelihoods, threatening to undo its modest development gains and slip into higher levels of extreme poverty⁶⁴. The United Nations further asserts that climate change is having a growing impact on the African continent, hitting the most vulnerable hardest, and contributing to food insecurity, population displacement and stress on water

⁵⁹ Kimaro. Didas et al., 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in ECA/SADC/COMESA Region: Opportunities and Challenges.' Available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/346628199_Climate_Change_Mitigation_and_Adaptation_in_ECASADCCOMESA_region_Opportunities_and_Challenges (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ Ibid

⁶² Rao. V., & Yadav. P., 'Confronting Climate Change in Africa.' Available at <https://knowledge.insead.edu/responsibility/confronting-climate-change-africa> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁶³ Ibid

⁶⁴ African Development Bank Group., 'Climate Change in Africa.' Available at <https://www.afdb.org/en/cop25/climate-change-africa> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

resources⁶⁵. It is imperative to combat climate change as envisaged under Agenda 2063 in order to realize Sustainable Development in Africa.

Another key aspiration of Agenda 2063 that is yet to be fully realized is fostering peace in Africa. There have been frequent conflicts across the African continent, which are fueled by various factors, including but not limited to natural resources, fight for political control, poverty, negative ethnicity, religion, environmental causes, and external influence, among others⁶⁶. Numerous civil wars have occurred in Africa in several countries including Sudan, Chad, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)⁶⁷. These conflicts have resulted in deaths and displacement of people creating a crisis of internally displaced persons, refugees and asylum seekers⁶⁸. The ideal of peace in Africa as envisioned under Agenda 2063 is therefore yet to be fully realized. Conflicts over natural resources are also a common occurrence in Africa⁶⁹. Despite being endowed with abundance of natural resources, Africa has over the years suffered from resource-based conflicts which threaten Sustainable Development in the continent⁷⁰. It has been observed that the 'resource curse phenomenon' is widespread in Africa which refers to the paradox that countries endowed with natural resources tend to be embroiled in conflicts and have high incidences of poverty⁷¹. DRC and Nigeria are examples of African countries endowed in natural resources that suffer widespread poverty⁷². The resource curse hinders realization of the

⁶⁵ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change., 'Climate Change is an Increasing Threat to Africa.' Available at <https://unfccc.int/news/climate-change-is-an-increasing-threat-to-africa> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁶⁶ Muigua. K., 'Towards Effective Peacebuilding and Conflict Management in Kenya.' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Towards-Peacebuilding-and-Conflict-Management-in-Kenya.docx-Kariuki-Muigua-MAY-2021x.pdf> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁶⁷ Ibid

⁶⁸ Africa Center for Strategic Studies., 'African Conflicts Displace Over 40 Million People.' Available at <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/african-conflicts-displace-over-40-million-people/> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁶⁹ Muigua. K., Wamukoya. D., & Kariuki. F., 'Natural Resources and Environmental Justice in Kenya.' Glenwood Publishers Limited, 2015

⁷⁰ Ibid

⁷¹ Henri. A., 'Natural Resources Curse: A Reality in Africa.' *Resources Policy*, Volume 63, 2019

⁷² Ibid

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ideal of Agenda 2063 of promoting sustainable management and beneficiation of Africa's minerals and natural resources⁷³.

Finally, one of the key aspirations under Agenda 2063 is fostering good governance, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law in Africa⁷⁴. However, this is yet to be fully achieved as evidenced by governance problems in most African countries including corruption, weak legal and institutional regimes, abuse of human rights, insufficient transparency and accountability mechanisms, weaknesses in justice systems and political instability in some countries⁷⁵. It has been pointed out that good governance is integral in the Sustainable Development agenda since it assists societies to develop effective governments within a democratic system, and to implement Sustainable Development principles through global partnership⁷⁶. Without good governance, the vision of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development agenda cannot be realized in Africa.

From the foregoing, it is evident that there are several problems hindering the attainment of the aspirations, goals and targets of Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development in Africa. This calls for accelerated efforts to ensure that Africa achieves the ideal of Agenda 2063 for Sustainable Development in the continent.

⁷³ African Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want.' Op Cit

⁷⁴ Ibid

⁷⁵ Crocker. C., 'African Governance: Challenges and their Implications.'

<https://www.hoover.org/research/african-governance-challenges-and-their-implications> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁷⁶ United Nations., 'Good Governance in Sustainable Development.' Available at

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/good-governance-sustainable-development#:~:text=The%20objective%20of%20Good%20Governance,development%20principles%20throug%20global%20partnership.> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

5.0 Way Forward

The First and Second Continental Reports on the Implementation of Agenda 2063 proposes recommendations towards achievement of the First Ten Year Implementation Plan and Agenda 2063 in overall⁷⁷. Such reforms include embedding the ideals and targets of Agenda 2063 in national and sub-national level planning and implementation processes and instruments; improved domestication, coordination, implementation and reporting on Agenda 2063; mobilising resources to ensure smooth implementation of Agenda 2063 at national, regional and continental level; development and deployment of new tools, approaches and institutional capacity support for member states for improved integrated national policy development and planning; enhancing public awareness of the content and relevance of Agenda 2063 to the local contexts, thereby highlighting synergies and complementarities between the continental, regional and national development agendas; and fostering stronger coordination between the African Union and the United Nations system to ensure synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063⁷⁸. It is therefore imperative for all stakeholders including member states, regional economic communities and the African Union to implement these reforms in order to actualize Agenda 2063 towards achieving sustainable development in Africa.

In addition, it has correctly been pointed out that the development themes envisaged under Agenda 2063 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 2014-2023⁷⁹. The aspirations of Agenda 2063 can therefore be achieved effectively at national levels by countries aligning their

⁷⁷ Africa Union., 'First Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063.'; Africa Union., 'Second Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063.

⁷⁸ Ibid

⁷⁹ Muigua. K., 'Africa's Agenda 2063: What is in it for Kenya?' Op Cit

development plans in accordance with the agenda and within the larger context of Sustainable Development⁸⁰.

Further, it is essential to pursue true Sustainable Development in Africa by pursuing development at the economic, social and environmental levels⁸¹. It has been argued that the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs fit neatly into the twenty goals of Agenda 2063 and that the two visions are mutually supportive and coherent⁸². Agenda 2063 can therefore be actualized by achieving the SDGs in Africa⁸³. Thus, it is necessary to eradicate poverty in Africa by pursuing sustainable economic growth, social protection, and environmental health and stewardship among other measures⁸⁴. It is also vital to pursue food security in Africa by increasing the resilience and productive capacity of African food systems through measures such as embracing climate smart agriculture and improving agriculture and food technologies⁸⁵. Eliminating intra-African tariffs and trade barriers in agriculture trade is also essential as envisioned under the AfCFTA⁸⁶. Further, improving health systems in Africa and achieving universal health coverage is vital in achieving SDG3 and the aspiration of Agenda 2063 on good health and well-being for all citizens in Africa⁸⁷.

⁸⁰ Ibid

⁸¹ Muigua. K., 'A Clarion call for Action: Realising True Sustainable Development.' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/A-Clarion-call-for-Action-Towards-realisation-of-True-Sustainable-Development-Kariuki-Muigua-May-2023.pdf> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁸² Muigua. K., 'Africa's Agenda 2063: What is in it for Kenya?' Op Cit

⁸³ African Union., 'Agenda 2063-SDGs.' Op Cit

⁸⁴ Muigua., 'Eradicating Poverty for Inclusive Development in Kenya.' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Eradicating-Poverty-for-Inclusive-Development-in-Kenya-25th-December-2020-Kariuki-Muigua.pdf> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁸⁵ The World Bank., 'Putting Africans at the Heart of Food Security and Climate Resilience.' Available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/immersive-story/2022/10/17/putting-africans-at-the-heart-of-food-security-and-climate-resilience> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁸⁶ Ayele. Y., & Mendez-Parra. M., 'How African Integration can Help Achieve Food Security.' Available at <https://odi.org/en/insights/how-african-integration-can-help-to-achieve-food-security/#:~:text=Eliminating%20tariffs%20on%20food%20products,culpit%20of%20high%20food%20rices.> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁸⁷ Pheage. T., 'We can Improve Health Systems in Africa.' Available at <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2016-march-2017/we-can-improve-health-systems-africa> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

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Another pertinent goal in Africa is realizing SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation⁸⁸. Without achieving SDG 6, Africa cannot achieve its developmental goals on health, food security, economic growth, climate action, and many others since water is a critical component of development⁸⁹. It is therefore vital to embrace measures such as strengthening the institutional regulation for water investments and valuing efficient water use across sectors and industries among others in order to achieve this goal⁹⁰. It is also important to accelerate the attainment of SDG 4 on quality education by increasing funding for education infrastructure, especially focusing on pre-primary and primary education, investing in the training of teachers, and digital connectivity; and SDG 5 on gender equality by fostering gender inclusivity and the enforcement of legal frameworks to protect women and girls against discrimination, domestic violence, child marriage and female genital mutilation among other vices⁹¹.

It is also imperative to accelerate energy transition and foster energy justice in Africa in order to actualize Agenda 2063 and unlock Sustainable Development in the continent⁹². Agenda 2063 recognizes the importance of energy in the realization of its aspirations and seeks to enhance the transition to renewable energy and eradicate energy poverty in Africa⁹³. It is therefore necessary to upscale investments in green energy sources as renewable energy and address energy injustices by enhancing the accessibility and

⁸⁸ United Nations., 'Sustainable Development Goal 6, Clean Water and Sanitation.' Available at <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁸⁹ Global Water Partnership., 'Leaders Commit to Mind the Gap - Invest in Water as the Race to Achieve SDG 6 in Africa Accelerates.' Available at <https://www.gwp.org/en/GWP-SouthernAfrica/About-GWP-SAF/more/News/leaders-commit-to-mind-the-gap--invest-in-water-as-the-race-to-achieve-sdg-6-in-africa-accelerates/#:~:text=In%20Africa%2C%20progress%20on%20SDG,climate%20action%2C%20and%20many%20others.> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁹⁰ Ibid

⁹¹ United Nations Development Programme., 'New Africa SDGs Report Shows Slow Progress, Calls for Greater Action to Meet Targets.' Available at <https://www.undp.org/africa/press-releases/new-africa-sdgs-report-shows-slow-progress-calls-greater-action-meet-targets> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁹² Muigua. K., 'Towards Energy Justice in Kenya.' Op Cit

⁹³ African Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want.' Op Cit

affordability of energy in Africa and fostering public participation and inclusivity in energy decision making⁹⁴.

There is also need to confront climate change in Africa in order achieve Sustainable Development⁹⁵. Agenda 2063 recognizes while Africa has played a relatively minor role and contributed little to the accumulation of greenhouse gases and the attendant climate change, it is the most vulnerable region to climate change risks⁹⁶. It seeks to foster environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities in Africa⁹⁷. It has been pointed out that while Africa has contributed negligibly to climate change, with just about two to three percent of global emissions, it stands out disproportionately as the most vulnerable region in the world⁹⁸. It is thus imperative to combat climate change and foster climate justice in Africa⁹⁹. There is need for African countries to respond to climate change by focusing and investing in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies¹⁰⁰. It is also vital to unlock climate finance in Africa at the national, regional and global levels in order to enhance the continent's response to climate change¹⁰¹. Developed countries also have a role to play in fostering climate justice in Africa through climate finance as envisioned under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities stipulated under the United Nations Framework

⁹⁴ Muigua. K., 'Adopting Green Energy for a Bright Tomorrow.' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Adopting-Green-Energy-for-a-Bright-Tomorrow.pdf> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁹⁵ Muigua. K., 'Reflections on Confronting Climate Change in Africa.' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Reflections-on-Confronting-Climate-Change-in-Africa.pdf> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁹⁶ Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want.' Op Cit

⁹⁷ Ibid

⁹⁸ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Responding to Climate Change.' Available at <https://www.unep.org/regions/africa/regional-initiatives/responding-climate-change> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

⁹⁹ Ibid

¹⁰⁰ Diagana. O., '3 key Fronts on Which Africa Must Combat Climate Change.' Available at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/african/3-key-fronts-which-africa-must-combat-climate-change> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

¹⁰¹ Muigua. K., 'Unlocking Climate Finance for Development.' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Unlocking-Climate-Finance-for-Development.pdf> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

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Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC)¹⁰². It is therefore vital for developed countries to deliver on an agreed climate finance target of \$100 billion annually by 2020 in order to aid the response towards climate change in developing countries including Africa¹⁰³. Further, it is necessary to actualize the COP 27 Loss and Damage Fund in order to foster climate justice and provide funds for vulnerable countries in Africa and other areas to respond to the loss and damage resulting from the effects of climate change¹⁰⁴.

Finally, it is vital to foster and embrace effective conflict management in Africa. Conflicts are a major hindrance to peace, security, sustainability and development in Africa¹⁰⁵. It is therefore important to enhance access to justice through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms, promote effective, accountable and effective justice systems, strengthen the rule of law and foster good governance in order to effectively address conflicts in Africa¹⁰⁶. There is also need to curb the resource curse through sustainable governance, management and benefit sharing in respect of natural resources in order to reduce conflicts and enhance economic, social and environmental benefits from natural resources¹⁰⁷. Actualizing the Africa Mining Vision will also enhance sustainability in the mining sector in Africa¹⁰⁸.

The foregoing measures are essential in actualizing Agenda 2063 for Sustainable Development in Africa.

¹⁰² United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change., United Nations, 1992., 'Available at <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

¹⁰³ Kone. T., 'For Africa to meet its Climate Goals, Finance is Essential.' Available at <https://climatepromise.undp.org/news-and-stories/africa-meet-its-climate-goals-finance-essential> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

¹⁰⁴ Anderson. K., 'What is the COP 27 Loss and Damage Fund?' Available at <https://greenly.earth/en-us/blog/company-guide/what-is-the-cop27-loss-and-damage-fund> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

¹⁰⁵ United Nations., 'Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa.' Available at https://www.un.org/osaa/sites/www.un.org.osaa/files/docs/2109875_osaa_sg_report_web_new.pdf

¹⁰⁶ International Development Law Organization., 'Achieving the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: The Rule of Law as a Driver of Africa's Sustainable Development.' Available at <https://www.idlo.int/sites/default/files/pdfs/publications/IDLO-AfricaConfered-ROL-Tanzania-REPORT-Edited-16.08.2017-RB.pdf> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

¹⁰⁷ Henri. A., 'Natural Resources Curse: A Reality in Africa.' Op Cit

¹⁰⁸ Muigua. K., 'Embracing Sustainable Mining in Africa.' Available at <https://kmco.co.ke/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Embracing-Sustainable-Mining-in-Africa.pdf> (Accessed on 24/10/2023)

6.0 Conclusion

Agenda 2063 is geared towards achieving Sustainable Development in Africa¹⁰⁹. The aspirations, goals and targets of Agenda 2063 fit well within the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are mutually supportive and coherent and can unlock virtually all the SDGs in Africa¹¹⁰. There has been progress towards actualizing the First Ten Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 as pointed out in the First and Second Continental Reports on the Implementation of Agenda 2063¹¹¹. However, there are pressing challenges facing the realization of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs in Africa. It is therefore imperative to actualize Agenda 2063 in order to achieve Sustainable Development in Africa. This can be achieved by aligning national development plans with Agenda 2063 and pursuing true Sustainable Development through measures such as eradicating poverty; promoting food security; enhancing access to health, education and clean water and sanitation; accelerating the energy transition in Africa and promoting energy justice; confronting climate change; and embracing effective conflict management in Africa¹¹². Actualizing Agenda 2063 for Sustainable Development in Africa is an ideal that can be achieved.

¹⁰⁹ Muigua. K., 'Africa's Agenda 2063: What is in it for Kenya?' Op Cit

¹¹⁰ Muigua. K., 'Africa's Agenda 2063: What is in it for Kenya?' Op Cit

¹¹¹ Africa Union., 'First Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063.'; Africa Union., 'Second Continental Report on the Implementation of Agenda 2063.

¹¹² Muigua. K., 'A Clarion call for Action: Realising True Sustainable Development.' Op Cit

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