

IMPLICATION OF COVID-19 ON THE AFRICA UNION AGENDA 2063: RETHINKING THE FIRST 10-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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Structure of presentation

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- ▣ Objectives of the lecture
- ▣ AU Agenda 2063 – Highlights
- ▣ Africa's challenges - Highlights
- ▣ The first 10-year plan
- ▣ Status of Covid-19 in Africa
- ▣ Effect of Covid-19 on the 10-year plan
- ▣ Recommendations



Background

- ▣ Africa is home to approximately 1.3b people (17% of global population)
- ▣ 43/86 countries defined as low-income and food-deficient are in Africa. The number of undernourished people has escalated dramatically.
- ▣ From OAU to AU at 50 years (2013)
- ▣ The focus shifted from decolonization to development
- ▣ Multiple challenges including Covid-19



Objectives of the lecture

- ❑ To reconcile the activities of the AU member states with the first 10-year implementation plan.
- ❑ To determine the effect of Covid-19 on the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063 first 10-year plan.
- ❑ Make recommendations for the amendment of the plan.



AU Agenda 2063 – Africa's 7 aspirations

- ❑ A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development.
- ❑ An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance.
- ❑ An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law.
- ❑ A peaceful and secure Africa.



AU Agenda 2063 – Africa's 7 aspirations

- ❑ Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics.
- ❑ An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential offered by African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.
- ❑ An Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner.



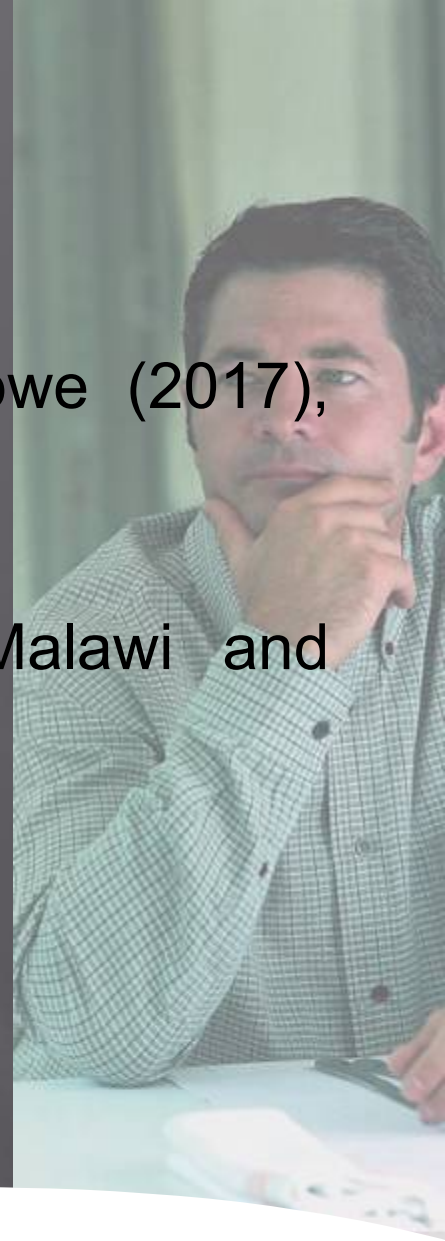
Africa's Challenges

- ❑ The basic right of people to the food they need.
- ❑ In 1996, Heads of State undertook to halve undernourishment by 2015.
- ❑ To date chronic hunger is widespread and pronounced.
- ❑ Hunger is compounded by many significant political, social, and environmental constraints.



Africa's Challenges

- ▣ Turmoil in Africa: cases such as Zimbabwe (2017), Sudan and Libya (both 2019)
- ▣ Devastating cyclones in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe left people with no food.
- ▣ Disease control, e.g., ebola, TB and malaria
- ▣ Weak institutions
- ▣ Lack of human resource training



Africa's Challenges

- ❑ Lack of access to finance.
- ❑ Fragmented financial markets between formal and informal markets
- ❑ Formal financial institutions serve the urban and peri-urban market. Informal institutions are dominant in rural areas.
- ❑ Lack of title to land due to institutional failures.



First 10-Year Plan: Aspiration #1

Priority Area 1	2023 Target	Strategy for Goal 1
Incomes, jobs and decent work	Increase per capita income by at least 30%	Promote cooperatives as sources of financing for the poor.
	Reduce 2013 unemployment rate by at least 25%	Develop policies that will enhance free movement of people and workers
	Reduce youth and women unemployment rate by 2% p.a.	Initiate policies that would lead to a better and more responsible labour migration flows.
	Reduce underemployment rate by 50%	
	Reduce 2013 vulnerable unemployment rate by at least 25%	

First 10-Year Plan: Aspiration #1

Priority Area 2	2023 Target	Strategy for Priority Area 2
Poverty, inequality and hunger	Reduce 2013 levels of poverty by at least 30%	Promote policies that will ensure access to affordable and quality food for all.
	Reduce poverty amongst women by at least 50%	Food and nutritional programmes for the vulnerable groups
	Improve the 2013 Gini coefficient by at least 20%	Promote policies that will lead to wealth creation and ensure it is evenly spread to all citizens.
	Reduce 2013 levels of proportion of the population who suffer from hunger by at least 80%	

Fast Track Projects (6/10)

- ▣ Integrated high speed train network
- ▣ Africa Virtual E-University
- ▣ Continental Free Trade Area
- ▣ African Passport and free movement of people
- ▣ Grand Inga Dam project
- ▣ Silencing the guns



Status of Covid-19 in Africa: Top 5

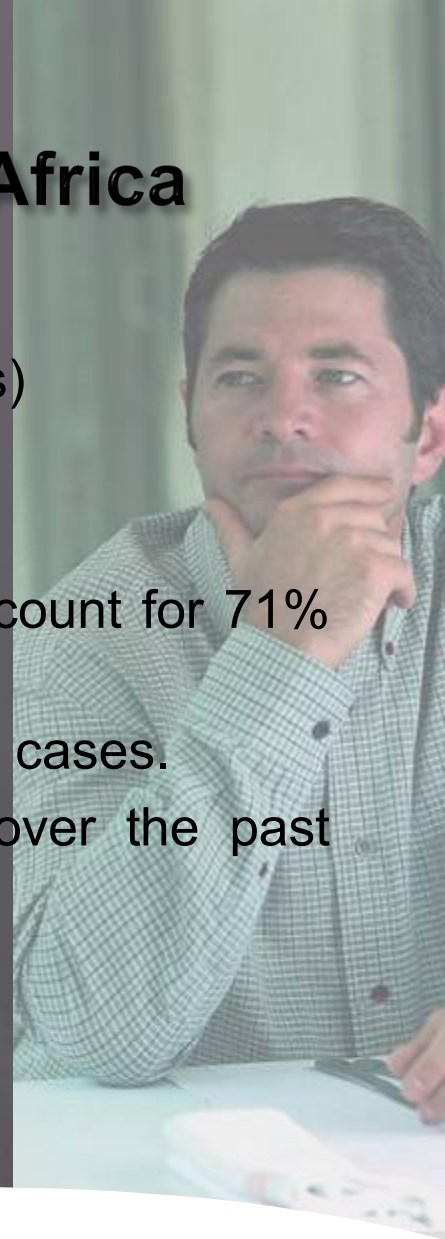
Country	Cases	%	Deaths	Active Cases	Recovered
South Africa	250 687	56.92	3 860	128 595	118 232
Nigeria	31 323	7.11	709	17 819	12 795
Ghana	23 463	5.33	129	4 712	18 622
Algeria	18 242	4.14	996	4 122	13 124
Cameroon	14 916	3.39	359	3 032	11 525

Status of Covid-19 in Africa: Bottom 5

Country	Cases	%	Deaths	Active cases	Recovered
Burundi	250	.07	1	131	118
Eritrea	232	.05	0	125	107
Lesotho	184	.04	1	163	20
Seychelles	100	0	2	89	11
Gambia	64	11	3	27	34

Some scary Covid-19 facts about Africa

- ❑ 594 955 cases in Africa as at 13 July (88% ≤60 years)
- ❑ 13 246 deaths
- ❑ 295 242 recoveries
- ❑ Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa account for 71% of Africa's cases.
- ❑ South Africa accounts for 43% of the continent's total cases.
- ❑ Cases have more than doubled in 22 countries over the past month to 8 July.



Implications of Covid-19 on Africa

- ▣ Escalating threat of Covid-19 overwhelming fragile health systems
- ▣ Equipping and protecting health workers is one of the central pillars.
- ▣ Key equipment, including:
 - ✓ oxygen concentrates
 - ✓ GeneXpert diagnostic testing machines
 - ✓ Protective personal equipment
- ▣ Training of health workers



Covid-19 and Africa's economy

- ❑ Covid-19 declared a national disaster by most countries
- ❑ Resulted in national lockdowns, serve for essential services
- ❑ Growth forecast for SSA: -2.1 to -5.1% in 2020, up from 2.4% (2019)
- ❑ SSA economies anticipate losses of between \$37b and \$79b in output losses in 2020.
- ❑ Agricultural production expected to contract by 2.6% to 7%.
- ❑ Severe food insecurity



AU Covid-19 Response Fund

- ▣ Aims to:
 - Strengthen the continental response to Covid-19
 - Mitigate socio-economic and humanitarian impact on African populations



Support from WHO

- ▣ WHO provides technical guidance
- ▣ Crucial medical equipment
- ▣ Trained more than 25 000 health workers
- ▣ More than 420 shipments of key equipment



Country Response: Case of South Africa

- ❑ Declared Covid-19 a national disaster
- ❑ Declared a lockdown on 26 March at alert level 5
- ❑ R500b (+/--\$300m) stimulus package for social relief and economic support
- ❑ R500m (+/--\$30m) solidarity fund to support SMMEs
- ❑ IDC and DTI – R3b (+/--\$175m) for supporting distressed businesses and for essential supplies.
- ❑ Currently in alert level 3 with stringent conditions.



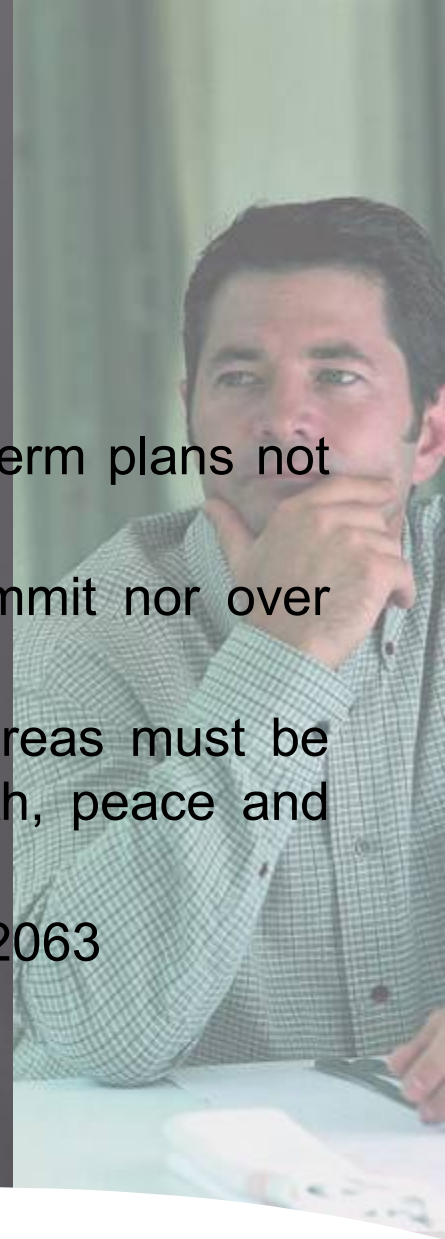
Is the 10-year plan achievable by 2023?

- ❑ Not entirely achievable
- ❑ Applaud the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)
- ❑ African passport and free movement of people
- ❑ Inga Dam project
- ❑ Silencing the guns
- ❑ High speed train
- ❑ Virtual African University
- ❑ Reduction of unemployment and hunger



Recommendations

- ❑ Agenda 2063 is a colossal project
- ❑ The Ten-year plans are too long, consider shorter-term plans not exceeding 5 years to align with Presidential terms.
- ❑ Member states must be realistic and not over commit nor over promise.
- ❑ The most urgent and practically possible priority areas must be tackled first (hunger, employment, education, health, peace and security).
- ❑ Aggressive awareness campaign of the AU Agenda 2063



Recommendations

- ❑ Regional Economic Commissioners to account frequently to regional political bodies.
- ❑ Invest in research for policy direction
- ❑ Strengthen partnerships, including with Universities to leverage on the wealth of expertise residing in these institutions of higher learning.
- ❑ Expedite regional integration, free movement of labour and the African passport.



▣ Thank you