



AFRICAN VOICES

Rise

GIZ African Union

African Voices Rise – Shaping Futures in a Changing Global Order

Annual Report 2023

Abbreviations

AA	German Federal Foreign Office
AEEP	Africa-European Union Energy Partnership
Africa CDC	The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AFRIPOL	AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation
AGA	African Governance Architecture
APSA	African Peace and Security Architecture
AU	African Union
AUBP	African Union Border Programme
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA-NEPAD	African Union Development Agency – New Partnership for Africa’s Development
AWARE	Promotion of Human Rights and Empowerment of Women in Africa
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
DataCipation	Harmonised and Inclusive Digital and Data Policies in Africa
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
NELGA	Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa
PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RIA	Resilience Initiative Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCPRA	Strengthening Crisis and Pandemic Prevention in Africa
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIFA	Skills Initiative for Africa
SLGA	Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa

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WELCOME

by Director
Dr Tobias Thiel

Dear Partners, Colleagues, and Friends,

I am delighted to present to you GIZ African Union's Annual Report 2023; its theme, **African Voices Rise – Shaping Futures in a Changing Global Order**, highlights the dynamic role the African Union plays on the global stage.

In 2023, the African Union reached a significant milestone by becoming a permanent member of the G20 as the second intergovernmental organisation alongside the European Union. Representing the voices of more than 1.4 billion Africans living in 55 member states, the African Union has the responsibility to ensure that African perspectives are shaping global agendas, strategies and policies.

A further landmark event was the inaugural Africa Climate Summit hosted by the African Union in Kenya in September 2023, which constituted a vital step towards addressing climate change and formulating a corresponding common African position. The African Union has also made significant strides in the acceleration of the single African market for goods and services – the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) – to boost intra-African trade and economic growth. Other policy areas, including digital transformation, migration and health, have also witnessed significant progress.

Despite these advancements, challenges, such as unconstitutional changes of government, terrorism or transboundary crime, underscore the critical significance of the African Peace, Security and Governance Architecture more than ever before. Equipping the African Union Commission, its organs and specialised agencies to fulfil their extensive mandates requires a continuous focus on enhancing institutional capacities as well as securing the necessary leeway and sustainable funding from member states.

This report features inspiring stories from people we support through our work at GIZ African Union, along



with testimonies of the impact we achieve in collaboration with our partners. It particularly explores the role of civil society in peacebuilding, the benefits of labour migration and trade, as well as the energy transformation on the continent. These steps towards achieving the vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa would not have been possible without the impassioned dedication and unwavering perseverance of our partners, stakeholders and the thriving team. We extend our sincere appreciation to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the German Federal Foreign Office, and the European Union for the reliable cooperation in our shared mission to support the African Union.

As we look forward to celebrating 20 years of cooperation with the African Union in 2024, we remain dedicated to nourishing our trusted partnership that amplifies African voices and drives sustainable development on the continent.

Addis Ababa, May 2024

Our Vision



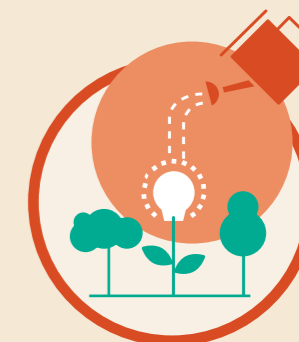
We are a **TRUSTED PARTNER** of the African Union



We **EMBODY CHANGE** and facilitate change processes across the continent



We **CONNECT PEOPLE, PARTNERS & IDEAS** across Africa



We foster **INNOVATION** and **SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS** to continental challenges

The African Union (AU) is the most important pan-African organisation, uniting all 55 African states. It plays a pivotal role in promoting peace and security, democratic governance, regional economic integration, and social development across the continent. Thus, the collaboration with the AU is a foundational part of Germany's international cooperation.

Since 2004, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been working with the AU Commission as well as many of the AU's specialised institutions and agencies to jointly implement programmes and projects at continental, regional, and national level. These include, among others, the AU Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, the AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC).

The AU-GIZ partnership is guided by the AU's vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa aiming to find African solutions to African challenges to realise the Africa Africans want. For this purpose, its strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development is the Agenda 2063. The seven core aspirations of the Agenda 2063 are designed to accelerate Africa's growth and development while simultaneously contributing to the achievement of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



AU VISION

An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.



Areas of Work

As a strong partner of the African Union, GIZ African Union (GIZ AU) is committed to propelling the continent's aspirations and global development objectives. On behalf of our commissioning parties, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the German Federal Foreign Office (AA), as well as additional international partners, such as the European Union, Finland, Sweden, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, GIZ AU supports the AU's efforts in more than 40 of its 55 member states. Our work focuses on these four key areas:

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention: We lead initiatives aimed at fostering peace and stability, critical for Africa's enduring growth.

Governance and Migration: We concentrate on enhancing governance frameworks and managing migration effectively, balancing developmental needs with societal well-being.

Sustainable Economic Growth and Employment: We focus on building economic resilience and creating jobs, essential for a flourishing African economy.

Health and Social Development: We work to enhance health outcomes and promote inclusive social development across the continent.

GIZ AU's programmes and projects align with the United Nations' Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the AU's Aspirations of the Agenda 2063 towards the pan-African vision for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress, and collective prosperity.

ABOUT GIZ AU

Our Programmes, Footprint and Team

AGENDA 2063 AND 7 ASPIRATIONS



1

A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development



2

An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance



3

An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law



4

A peaceful and secure Africa



5

An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics



6

An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children



7

Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner

List of Programmes and Projects of GIZ African Union

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention



APSA-AGA	Support to the AU in the Area of Peace, Security and Governance (05/2022 – 04/2026, EUR 13.7 million)	ECCAS BP	Support to the ECCAS Border Programme (10/2019 – 06/2023, EUR 13.2 million) *
TANA	Support to the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa (07/2021 – 04/2025, EUR 5.0 million)	AFRIPOL	Programme to Build and Strengthen the Police Structures in Africa (01/2023 – 06/2026, EUR 1.7 million)
AUBP	Border Governance – Support to the African Union Border Programme (01/2021 – 06/2026, EUR 33.0 million)		



Sustainable Economic Growth and Employment



AfCFTA	Support to the African Continental Free Trade Area (08/2020 – 12/2024, EUR 57.0 million) * / **	AEEP	Africa-European Union Energy Partnership (09/2018 – 06/2026, EUR 11.7 million) *
AFPQ	Alliance for Product Quality in Africa (03/2023 – 03/2026, EUR 5.0 million)	ABF	Agri-Business Facility for Africa (01/2020 – 06/2027)
PIDA	Green Infrastructure Corridors for Intra-African Trade – Support to PIDA (11/2021 – 10/2025, EUR 13.5 million)	BlueSec	Global Water Security – Cooperation for Resilience and Conflict Prevention (01/2024 – 10/2027, EUR 10.7 million) *
SIFA	Skills Initiative for Africa (01/2023 – 12/2025, EUR 7.9 million)		



All programmes and projects are implemented on behalf of the German Government.



* Co-funded by

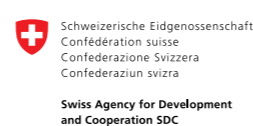


** Co-funded by



Sweden
Sverige

*** Co-funded by



**** Co-funded by



Governance and Migration



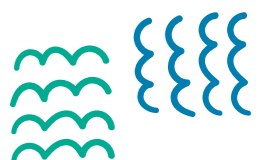
Migration	Support to the African Union on Labour Migration and Free Movement of Persons (01/2022 – 12/2025, EUR 9.2 million) ***	SLGA	Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (11/2014 – 02/2026, EUR 47.8 million)
ICBP	Institutional Capacity Building Programme (01/2021 – 12/2026, EUR 7.5 million)	RIA	Resilience Initiative Africa (07/2022 – 06/2025, EUR 14.0 million)
AGA	Strengthening Good Governance and Human Rights in Africa (01/2020 – 06/2023, EUR 9.3 million)	GFG	Good Financial Governance in Africa (02/2019 – 01/2025, EUR 10.4 million) * / ****
AWARE	Promotion of Human Rights and Empowerment of Women in Africa (07/2023 – 06/2026, EUR 9.0 million)	ABS	Multi-Donor-Initiative Capacity Development for Access and Benefit-Sharing (08/2022 – 08/2025, EUR 0.3 million)
DataCipation	Harmonised and Inclusive Digital and Data Policies in Africa (06/2020 – 07/2026, EUR 41.3 million) *	F4F	Forests4Future (01/2020 – 06/2027, EUR 0.7 million)
		K4T	Supporting Linkages Between Research and Economic Policy in Africa (01/2022 – 06/2025, EUR 0.4 million)



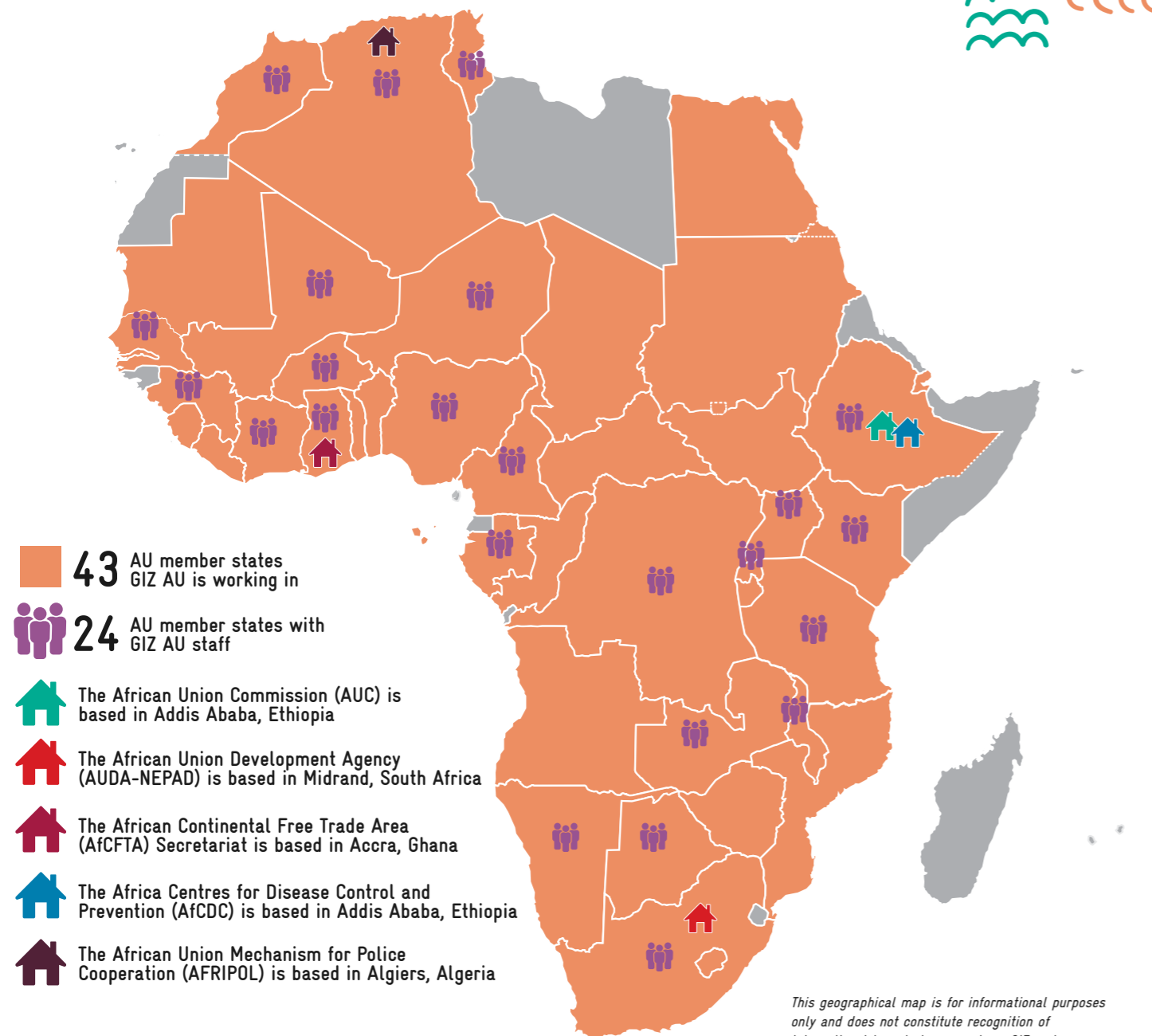
Health and Social Development



SCPRA	Strengthening Crisis and Pandemic Prevention in Africa (12/2021 – 11/2024, EUR 22.2 million) *	PPOH	Pandemic Prevention and Response, One Health (01/2021 – 08/2024, EUR 1.1 million)
BACKUP Health	Global Programme Health System Strengthening (04/2020 – 03/2026, EUR 3.3 million) *	OHDA	One Health Data Alliance Africa (01/2022 – 12/2025, EUR 2.5 million)
		S4DA	Sports for Development in Africa (08/2022 – 06/2025, EUR 2.1 million)



Facts and Figures



This geographical map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute recognition of international boundaries or regions; GIZ makes no claims concerning the validity, accuracy or completeness of the maps nor assumes any liability resulting from the use of the information therein.

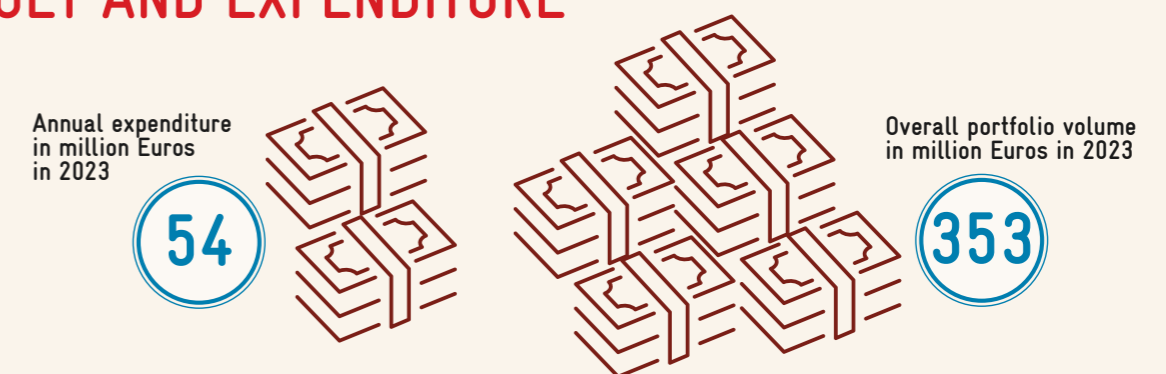
PORTFOLIO ACTIVITIES



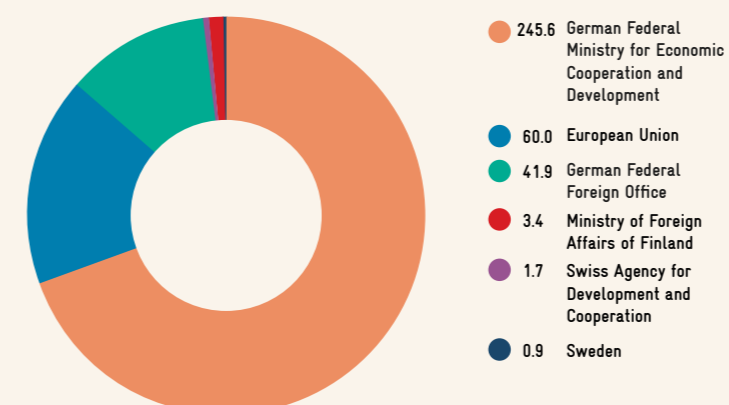
THE GIZ AU TEAM



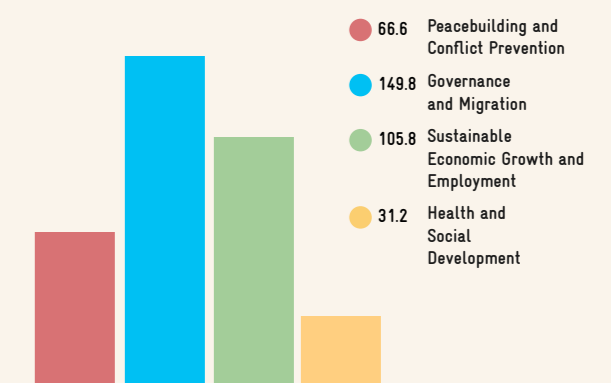
BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE



Budget by funding source in million Euros



Budget by sectors in million Euros



AFRICAN VOICES *Rise*

With the theme of this year's report, "African Voices Rise – Shaping Futures in a Changing Global Order", we commemorate Africa's growing unity and influence in a rapidly changing global landscape. This theme aligns with Aspiration 7 of the African Union's Agenda 2063, which envisions an Africa as a strong, united, resilient, and influential global player and partner. Our common goal is to amplify African perspectives, ensuring that African voices resonate powerfully on the world stage, shaping policies, and driving sustainable development.

Guided by the African Union's vision of an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a driving force in global arena, "African Voices Rise" emphasises our commitment to enhancing African presence in different areas – from civil society's influence in peacebuilding to women and youth's roles for economic growth – towards a future worth living.

"Africa is a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner."
– Aspiration 7 of the AU's Agenda 2063



Through our work in 2023...

7,800+

professionals

received training to develop their skills.



14,000

people networked

and exchanged their knowledge in 60+ events.

30+ million

social media users

were reached in online campaigns.



290+

knowledge products

were developed with our partners to advance regional integration.



Participation from the private sector and civil society representatives in

130+ initiatives

on the continent was supported.



We ensured that statements towards human rights, gender equality, and climate protection are included in

45

AU policy documents.



GIZ African Union Staff Portraits

GIZ AU is fortunate to have passionate minds and personalities from diverse backgrounds working in our collaborative programmes and projects. Our team unites expertise from different nationalities and cultures around the world, working together to amplify African voices and realise the Africa that its citizens want. We acknowledge and celebrate this diversity and introduce some of our valued professionals.



Dr Bakary Sanou

AUBP, Nigeria

Tell us something about yourself.

When I was in high school, I've been tasked to ring the school bell for four years. This taught me how to be an early bird and strengthened my time management skills as I had to combine school and my career as a "taekwondo karate competitor".

What do you do at GIZ AU?

I am the regional coordinator for West Africa at the programme Border Governance in Africa: Support to the African Union Border Programme.

I am steering a team of advisors and support staff and assure the coordination and alignment of GIZ's support between the AU, ECOWAS and its member states. In addition to this leadership role, I provide technical advisory directly to the ECOWAS Commission, Nigeria, Benin Republic, Ghana, and Togo in the area of better border definition, cross-border cooperation and conflict prevention.

What are the best parts of your job?

The multi-level (continental, regional, national, and local) and multi-stakeholder nature of the project makes implementation more complex and opens doors to the flexibility and creativity required to succeed. Every day, we face new challenges that reinforce our ability to experiment, learn and innovate. Despite this uncertainty, we value the recognition and appreciation of our partners. I also love that our programme makes it possible to translate political decisions into actions right down to villages and communities.

What positive change do you hope to see from African voices rising?

Africans urgently need to transform their potential into a genuine lever for development and an opportunity for the well-being of youth and future generations. This requires a culture of peace, stability, good governance, and cooperation between communities, African states, and the rest of the world.

Catherine Muya

DataCipation, Kenya

Tell us something about yourself.

I start my day with morning exercise to build energy to get through the day. Waking up early and staying consistent requires discipline and resilience. This habit taught me a lot about life, but mostly that success is the result of small consistent habits over time; this is in line with the Japanese approach of Kaizen.

What do you do at GIZ AU?

I am a data policy advisor at the programme Harmonised and Inclusive Digital and Data Policies in Africa (DataCipation). I work together with my team and our political partner, the African Union Commission, on the implementation of the AU Data Policy Framework to develop national data systems. I manage our relationship with partners, such as the AU Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and technical assistance to several member states.

What are the best parts of your job?

Offering technical assistance to AU member states: It is an incredible experience to sit with member states, understand their needs and strategise on how to assist. As a lawyer, putting my legal skills to good use, designing, and reviewing policies is amazing. Besides this, it is always the great moments I spend with my team.

What positive change do you hope to see from African voices rising?

An empowered continent and people. In our project, we help develop data strategies, data protection legislation for countries without existing frameworks and empower existing authorities to carry out their mandate more effectively. More African policy positions are adopted that balance human rights and development, being truly human-centric.



Huong Le

SCPRA, Ethiopia

Tell us something about yourself.

What most colleagues probably do not know about me is that moving to Addis Ababa made me do things again which I have not done in a very long time, such as driving a car. This has definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone.

What do you do at GIZ AU?

I work as an advisor in the project Strengthening Crisis and Pandemic Response in Africa. Our project works towards strengthening continental health institutions, such as the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). Within the team, I lead the support on strengthening Africa CDC's core institutional capacities as well as enhancing its cooperation with Regional Economic Communities.

What are the best parts of your job?

Besides the great team spirit – within the team, within the portfolio and with the partner – I very much appreciate that I have the space to lead processes, to bring in my own ideas and to grow professionally and personally.

What positive change do you hope to see from African voices rising?

Working with Africa CDC and especially with young African people, I am very inspired by their passion and dedication to constantly change the continent for the better. I hope that more African voices rising will lead to a change process which is more driven by equity, and inclusive for marginalised groups.

Earl Lonnie King

PIDA, South Africa

Tell us something about yourself.

I owned a motorcycle for a short period – just under two years – and managed to run out of fuel twice during that time. I am not certain if this is normal for motorcyclists.

What do you do at GIZ AU?

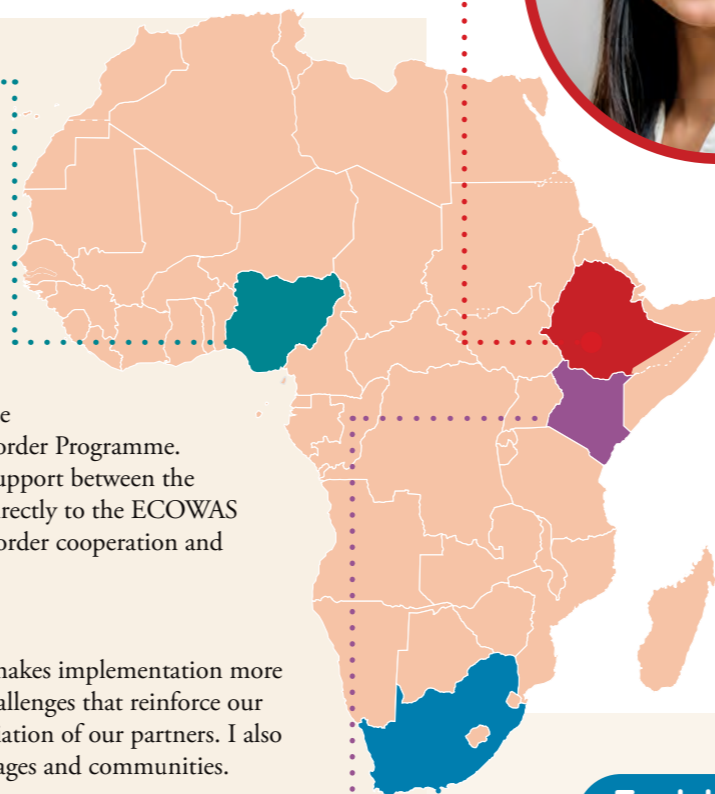
I have an advising role as focal point in digitalisation and data topics for the AUDA-NEPAD infrastructure, energy and digitalisation division at the programme Green Infrastructure Corridors for Intra-African Trade. We support the AU's Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) through a digitalisation strategy and digitalisation measures for the AUDA-NEPAD Service Delivery Mechanism, which is an instrument for preparing infrastructure projects. This includes growing existing and new cooperations and digital capacity development that aligns the partner's and the continental agenda.

What are the best parts of your job?

Connecting with our programme team, the entire GIZ and partners who are forthright, forward-looking and good at heart. And in terms of broad expertise, I enjoy working together to identify pathways to solving challenges. The exposure to pure infrastructure development knowledge across sectors is also exciting, and contributing to the new international cooperation sphere is rewarding.

What positive change do you hope to see from African voices rising?

Increasingly natural collaboration, understanding and agreement in goals we collectively strive for. Sincere solidarity in appreciation of information sharing and equivalence of growth opportunities to balance awareness with driving sustained practical priorities. And generally speaking, I emphasise learning when best, leading when required, and championing the single voice.



A NEW ERA OF AFRICAN INTEGRATION

Realising the Potential of Free Movement of Persons and Labour Migration



For decades, the vision of a united Africa deeply rooted in the ideals of Pan-Africanism, with free movement of its people and the flourishing of economic and political integration, has captivated the imagination of the continent. This vision, advocating for the unhindered movement of citizens from one African nation to another, seeks to grant them the fundamental rights to live, work, and contribute across borders without substantial barriers. The African Union actively promotes the realisation of this vision.

Labour migration and free movement across Africa are key drivers for regional integration and cooperation, addressing skills shortages, boosting cross-border trade and investments, and invigorating the tourism sector. More importantly, eased mobility offers a pathway to regularise migration, reducing the risks associated with irregular movements, such as exploitation by human traffickers and smugglers.

The AU Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development (HHS) works with member states to implement policies on labour employment, migration, and free movement of persons. The German Government provides support to the AU on issues of migration, especially on migration governance, free movement, and labour migration, through the project Supporting the African Union on Labour Migration and Free Movement of Persons. Collaboration with the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the AU (ECOSOCC) ensures the effective participation of civil society in these processes.



Key Developments in 2023

8th Pan African Forum on Migration

200+ participants from 36 member states, the AfCFTA Secretariat, the ECOSOCC General Assembly, and parliaments



In a landmark event, GIZ had the privilege to support the 8th Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFoM) in Gaborone, Botswana, from 31 October to 2 November 2023. Themed “Bolstering Free Movement and Trade Nexus in the AfCFTA: Optimising Benefits of Migration, Labour Migration for Development”, the forum focused on enhancing understanding of migration’s socio-economic benefits and positive multiplier effects, and the role of the Free Movement Protocol as a catalyst for development. The official communique of the forum, the Gaborone Clarion Call, offers practical recommendations to member states, regional economic communities (RECs), and the AU Commission for accelerating free movement on the continent through enhanced public and private sector engagement, as well as, emphasis on technology and innovation.

Youth Voices for Eased Mobility

The burgeoning youth population across Africa is crucial in shaping the continent's future. Recognising this, the Pan-African Forum on Migration saw the AU youth ambassadors actively contribute to policy discussions on labour mobility and skill recognition. Their involvement is key to developing inclusive policies that cater to the needs of young people, fostering safe and regular migration opportunities. This engagement marks a significant step in ensuring that the voices of youth are not just heard but are at the forefront of driving progressive change.



"I have always been passionate about African unity, especially when put into the context of the Agenda 2063, the AfCFTA and the AU Free Movement Protocol."

– Walter Kasempa, AU and IOM Migration Youth Ambassador



National Dialogue Series

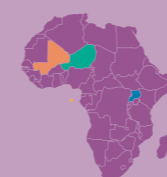
AU ECOSOCC and GIZ held three civil society organisation (CSO) sensitisation fora to raise awareness about the AU Free Movement Protocol (FMP). These regional fora highlighted the need for national discussions to better understand the protocol's implications. Building on this, AU ECOSOCC and GIZ initiated the National Dialogue Series on the FMP in 2023. These dialogues in Zambia, Mauritius, and Kenya fostered direct interactions among CSOs, academia, media, and policy-makers and addressed common misconceptions, paving the way for inclusive policy-making.

with **200+**
policy-makers

– representatives of
relevant ministries,
parliaments,
academia, civil society
and media

in **3 countries**

Zambia (March 2023),
Mauritius (May 2023),
Kenya (September 2023)



4 countries

(Rwanda, Niger, Mali, São Tomé and Príncipe) have ratified the AU FMP so far, easing movement for citizens of other African countries.

Benin, The Gambia, and the Seychelles offer **visa-free entry to citizens** of other African countries. Kenya started visa-free entry for all.



600+ people

reached in webinar series on free movement – "Mobilising Africa: Promoting Free Movement for Growth and Development."





CIVIL SOCIETY AT THE FOREFRONT OF PEACE

Impacting the African Union's Peace Initiatives

At a time marked by armed conflicts, violent extremism and unconstitutional changes of government, as well as disputes over political power and resources, civil unrest and political instability have increased across Africa.

The African Union and its member states established the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA) as frameworks to not just confront these challenges but also to transform them into opportunities for peace, security and good governance.

The Role of Civil Society in Peacebuilding

Civil society's involvement in peace and governance is crucial and transcends traditional boundaries. Under the motto "From Policy to Practice", GIZ is working with the AU, through its programme Support to the AU in the Area of Peace, Security and Governance, throughout the conflict cycle.



Conflict Prevention

The programme supported a paradigm shift in conflict prevention, firmly embedding civil society's engagement in the process. By facilitating 20 processes where civil society's voices influenced decision-making and by organising more than 20 dialogue formats between the AU and local groups, it has reinforced the role of civil society as key peacebuilders, especially emphasising the inclusion of women and youth.

Additionally, the serious game "Mission 55 - Conflict in Anaka" was developed to educate African youth about the AU's efforts in peace, security, and governance. Available as an app, it helps players understand and engage with processes related to conflict prevention, management and resolution, as well as post-conflict reconstruction.

"Youth aspire to play a crucial role in transitional justice processes – seeking to have their voices heard, stories acknowledged, and perspectives integrated into decision-making and policy formulation. The Youth Organisation for Research and Justice Advocacy (YORJA), leveraging technology and innovation, is a key tool to amplify youth voices and promote transparency in transitional justice processes."

– Angeline Abuor, Executive Director and Co-Founding Trustee – Youth Organisation for Research and Justice Advocacy (YORJA), Kenya



SDGs

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	5 GENDER EQUALITY
13 CLIMATE ACTION	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Agenda 2063

4	6
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National Action Plans on Youth, Peace, and Security

Youth are actively voicing their perspectives during consultations to develop National Action Plans on Youth, Peace and Security in Cameroon and The Gambia. Priorities, such as education, youth employment, and economic development highlight the agenda's cross-sectoral approach. This participatory approach effectively includes youth into peace processes and broader decision-making, which is crucial for fostering and bridging development and peace.

Conflict Management



The AU's responses to crisis and conflict became more effective by redefining inclusivity in peacekeeping. Notably, due to GIZ's cooperation with the AU, the number of female experts in the African Standby Force's civilian roster was doubled, strengthening African-led peacekeeping initiatives. To further support the AU's Department for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) in evidence-based decision and policy-making, the AU's

Network of Think Tanks for Peace (NeTT4Peace) has

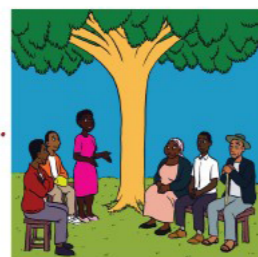
been established to provide studies, policy papers, and trainings to improve the AU's response to crisis and conflict.

Peace Consolidation

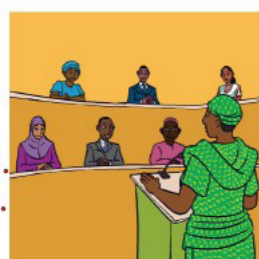
Within the Regional Strategy for the Stabilisation, Recovery, and Resilience of the Lake Chad Basin region (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria), more than 60 civil society organisations were empowered to provide mental health and psychosocial support services to communities affected by Boko Haram. Over the past two years, these initiatives have reached more than two million people.



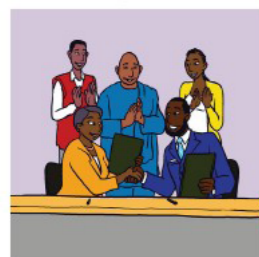
Further implementation of APSA tools with focus on prevention of violent extremism



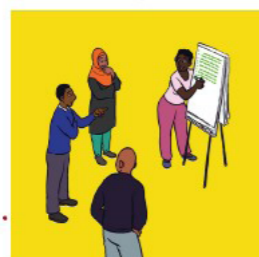
Enhancement of youth participation in APSA interventions.



Active promotion of cooperation between different stakeholders.



Further strengthening of the AU Peace Fund.



Fostering cooperation among the AU and African think-tanks.

Support for the AU Transitional Justice Policy has furthered the commitment to amplify the voices of youth and women in post-conflict settings. This involves capacity development that encourages their participation in diverse transitional justice processes, including truth-seeking, reconciliation commissions, memorialisation, reparations programmes, and accountability processes.

African Women for Transitional Justice

The AU Transitional Justice Policy, unanimously adopted in 2019, recognises the disproportionate impact of violent conflicts on women and girls, underlining the need for a gendered approach. The AU, with the support of GIZ, is setting up the African Women for Transitional Justice (AW4TJ) continental platform, that will be officially launched in 2024. Initial training sessions have already outlined the vision, objectives, core values, structure and priority areas of AW4TJ, preparing to establish a roster of female experts. This initiative builds the capacity of women involved in transitional justice mechanisms and allows them to influence governmental processes and structures.

African Research Community and a New Agenda for Peace

During the development of the United Nations' New Agenda for Peace, NeTT4Peace played an essential role in shaping the AU's contributions emphasising nine key priorities to enhance Africa's role in the global peace agenda. This network offers the African research community the unique opportunity to influence governance, peace and security policies in Africa, ensuring their voices are integral to the AU's decision-making processes.

"Now I am always with friends at school, participating in formal education and taking part in social activities. The future looks bright for me, with the hope to be reunited with my family. For me, after so many years, hope is reborn and life seems to go on..."

– Halima Auwal, 13-year-old survivor of extremist violence in north-east Nigeria



2+ million people reached

350

women supported to participate in peace processes

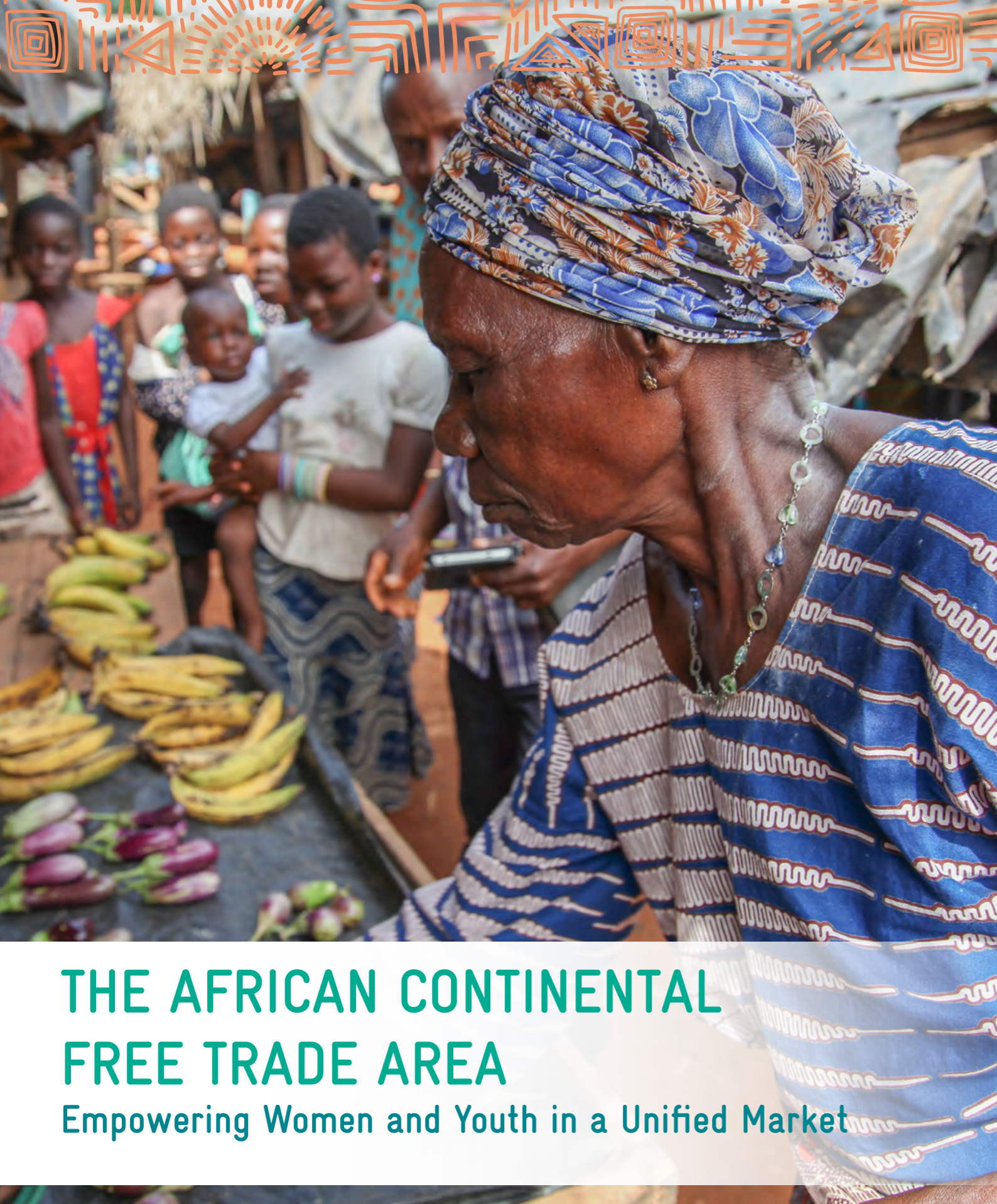
22

dialogues between the AU and civil society



These efforts have underscored the AU's commitment to peace, security and governance across the continent. By enhancing conflict prevention and management, as well as peace consolidation, and increasing the involvement of women, youth and civil society, these initiatives lay a solid foundation for sustainable peace. Inclusive participation has the ability to turn challenges into opportunities, conflict into collaboration, and voices into echoes of change.





THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

Empowering Women and Youth in a Unified Market

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) stands as a landmark initiative within the African Union's Agenda 2063. It seeks to create a single, integrated market for goods and services that encompasses all 55 African member states, transforming the continent into the world's largest free trade area by the number of participating countries. The AfCFTA is not only about increasing trade but about setting the rules of economic engagement within the continent, enhancing competitiveness, and fostering a unified economic area with an expected enhanced prosperity for over 1.4 billion people.

However, intra-African trade faces significant challenges – from stringent trade policies and inadequate infrastructure to complex regulatory environments and currency issues. These barriers have shifted the economic potential of the continent, with intra-African trade accounting for only around 17 per cent. Over the years, this figure has remained relatively constant, highlighting persistent obstacles to robust intra-African commerce.

By systematically addressing these obstacles, the AfCFTA is expected to promote structural transformation, boost intra-African trade, and create employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth. As African economies seek self-reliance and resilience, intra-African trade gains renewed momentum. To emphasise the importance of the AfCFTA, the African Union chose the “Acceleration of AfCFTA implementation” as its theme of the year for 2023.

The programme Support to the AfCFTA has been promoting the implementation and negotiation of the AfCFTA since 2020, working closely with ten partner countries, three Regional Economic Communities (EAC, ECOWAS, and SADC), the AfCFTA Secretariat, and the AU Commission (AUC).

SDGs



Agenda 2063

A Flagship Project of
Agenda 2063 The Africa we Want



Empowering Women and Youth

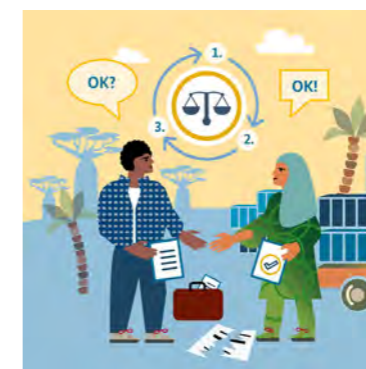
One priority in 2023 was the finalisation of the Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade, marking the first time a free trade agreement specifically addressing them.

After negotiations between AU member states were concluded, the Women and Youth Protocol was discussed by the Council of Ministers at the high-level conference “Women in Trade” in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from 6 to 8 December 2023, and adopted by

the AU Summit in February 2024. It has yet to be ratified by the member states, and negotiations on the annexes are ongoing. GIZ was involved in the timely finalisation of the protocol, ensuring inclusiveness and comprehensiveness through the supported expert and stakeholder engagements.

This protocol is a historic commitment to gender equality and youth empowerment. It emphasises the importance of integrating gender consideration into trade agreements and supporting women's various roles in trade from entrepreneurs, producers, traders, investors, to employees, consumers, and decision-makers. Through the AfCFTA, women can explore new markets and expand their businesses beyond borders, find buyers, and establish partnerships. Women all over the continent benefit from it, as it supports their participation in their various trade roles and maximises the potential advantage of trade agreements.

The AfCFTA's vision is to create a dynamic and integrated African market that fosters prosperity, inclusivity, and sustainable growth for all its citizens.



Through initiatives, such as SheTrades, in collaboration with the International Trade Center (ITC), women's active participation has been promoted. Training programmes and policy dialogues have helped over 650 women entrepreneurs for instance in Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda and Tunisia so far to develop skills and knowledge in export readiness and e-commerce necessary for navigating the complexities of cross-border business and maximising the benefit of the AfCFTA. These efforts boost individual businesses and also contribute to broader economic growth and the structural transformation of the continent.

The Protocol on Women and Youth in trade also presents a significant opportunity for youth in Africa. As the continent has the youngest population in the world, with more than two thirds under the age of 30, thus leveraging great potential for economic growth and development. For instance, youth engaged in trade discussions and initiatives, such as the participation of selected youth in the AfCFTA Youth Symposium in Zambia 2023. As a result, the Malawi Ministry of Trade and Industry recognised the important role of youth, who are now an integral part of the National AfCFTA Implementation Committee: They actively gather data on youth entrepreneurs nationwide and organise knowledge sharing and sensitisation trainings. Thus, the AfCFTA involves the youth in present trade dynamics expanding their businesses, and at the same time this contributes to job creation and poverty alleviation in their communities.

650+ women
entrepreneurs
were trained

7,700+ people
were trained on
relevant trade
topics

405+

customs and border officials
were trained on rules of
origin, tariff classifications,
administration, and trade
facilitation.

“We gained some competitive intelligence by getting some insights into competitors and industry trends, helping us stay competitive and adapt our strategies to be able to compete in the African and international markets.”

– Female exhibitor, SME from Zambia



10+ AFRICAN TRADE FORA WERE SUPPORTED, SUCH AS:

WOMEN IN TRADE CONFERENCE

– Dar es Salam, Tanzania

YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

– Lusaka, Zambia

THE INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE FAIR

– Cairo, Egypt

THE AFRICA LAW TECH FESTIVAL

– Nairobi, Kenya

SUPPORT TO THE AFRICAN WOMEN IN PROCESSING (AWIP) SUMMIT

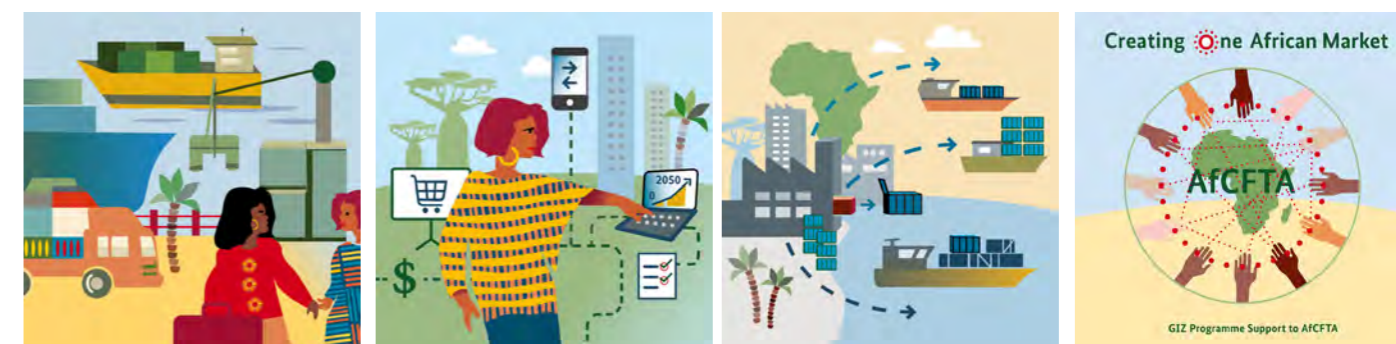
– Cairo, Egypt

THE MSME FORUM

– Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

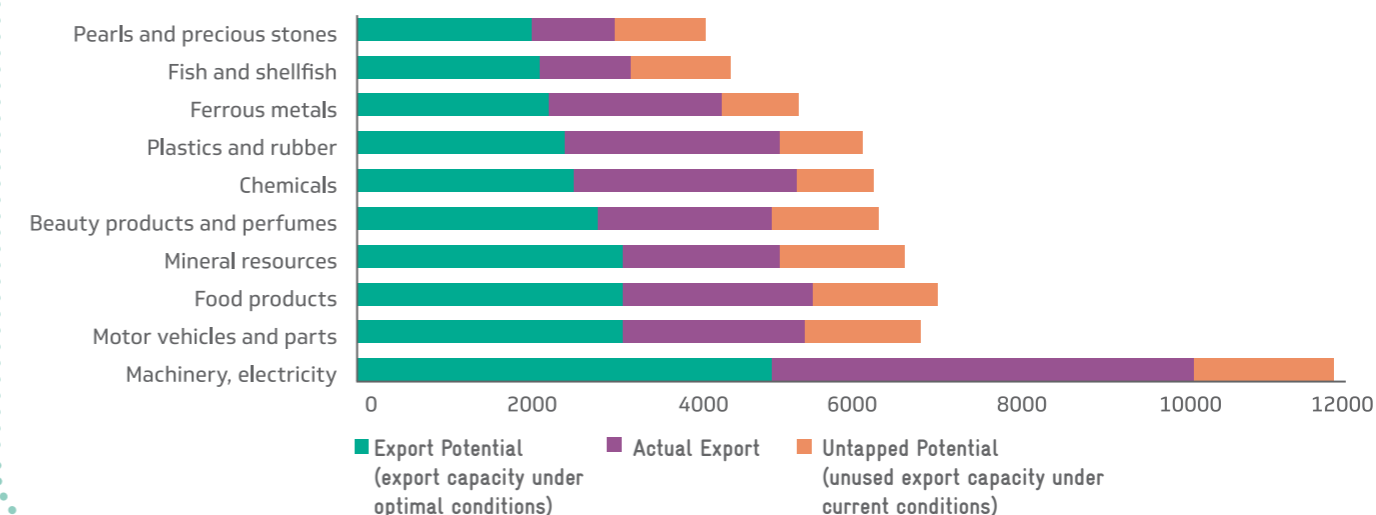
THE AfCFTA BUSINESS FORUM

– Cape Town, South Africa



The Guided Trade Initiative (GTI) is a pilot project to test the readiness of trade within the private sector. The first round of the GTI involved Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Tanzania and Tunisia, that engaged in real trade to assess the operational efficiencies of the trading procedures. So far, more than 100 products were traded, including sugar, tea, coffee, processed meat products and batteries. Companies from Ghana successfully exported to Egypt and Kenya, which are not traditional export markets.*

Products with greatest intra-African export potential (US\$ million)*



“We managed to get connections for possible buyers of tea and coffee from Malawi to Egypt and Dubai. We are also currently negotiating with an Egyptian manufacturer of yarn who expressed interest in engaging us as sole distributors of their products in Malawi.”

– Female exhibitor, SME from Malawi

* Source: Afreximbank 2023



AFRICA'S ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

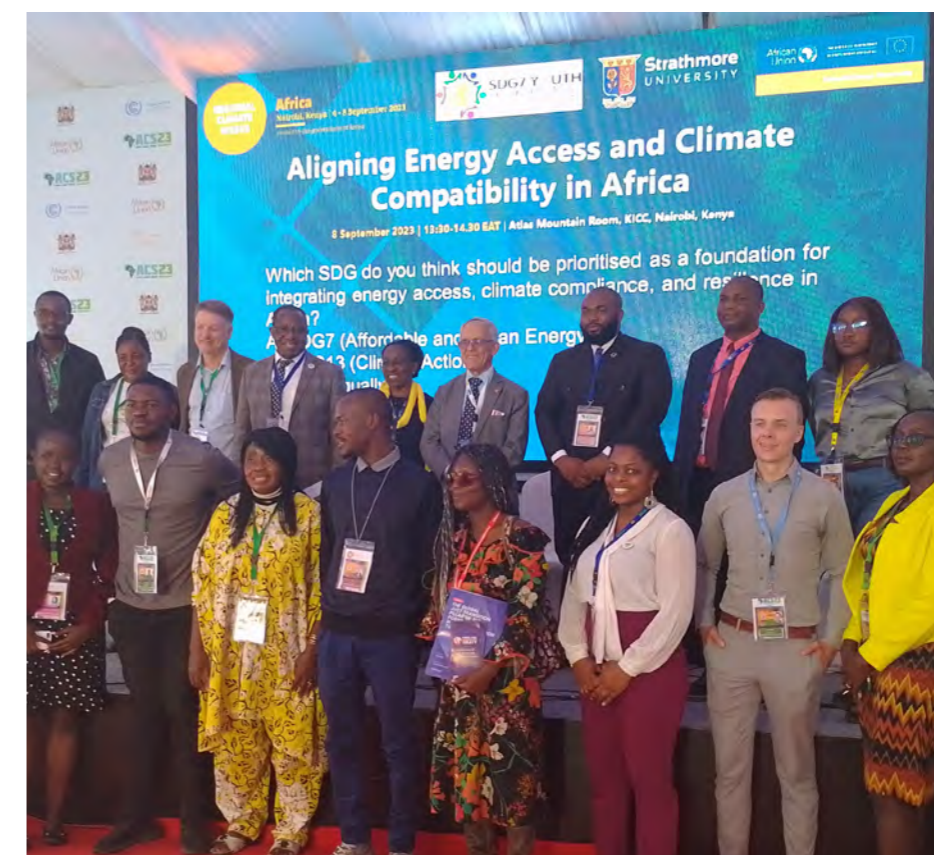
Dialogue and Partnership in the African-European Energy Framework

Africa faces a significant energy challenge, with only 57 per cent of its population having access to electricity in 2023. Addressing this energy and electricity deficit is crucial for improving human and economic development and wellbeing, as well as for achieving Africa's energy-related development goals. As the continent strives towards the Sustainable Development Goal 7 – ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all – Europe continues to be one of its most active international partners. From 2014 to 2020, European Union (EU) institutions and member states contributed a total of EUR 15.1 billion to energy-related projects in Africa.* This substantial financial commitment has supported various initiatives to expand energy access and promote sustainable energy solutions across the continent.

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) and its Secretariat, established in 2007 and housed by GIZ, functions as the long-term framework for strategic dialogue between the EU and Africa on energy. Over the years, the AEEP has grown into one of the most active bi-continental partnerships, significantly placing the role of sustainable energy in Africa on the international development agenda. By fostering political dialogue and providing knowledge and evidence products for policy-makers, the AEEP supports effective energy transitions on both continents and promotes a partnership of equals.

The AEEP also offers capacity support to regional and continental African institutions, including the African Union and the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD). This facilitates the implementation of joint initiatives and strengthens African voices within international energy discussions, ensuring that African perspectives are heard and integrated into global development strategies.



SDGs



Agenda 2063



10 events
with speakers and participants from public and private sector, and civil society

640+
participants reached in total

50/50 African and European perspectives
highlighted at AEEP Energy Talks

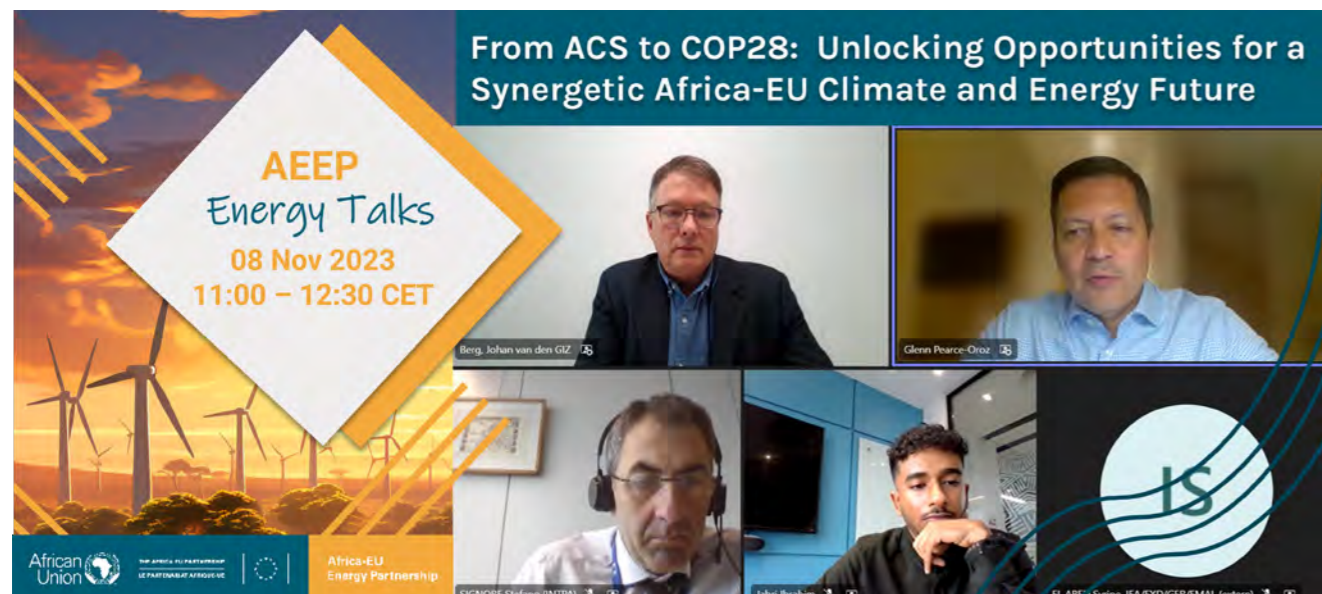
"I was very pleased with the diversity of the crowd and the high-level of institutions that were present physically."

- Participant at policy dialogue events in Madrid, Spain, February 2023

*European Financial Flows on SDG7 to Africa – AEEP 2022 Report

A Year of Engaging Dialogues and Impactful Events

In 2023, the AEEP Secretariat organised and supported several high-impact dialogues and fora convening key stakeholders across the private and public sector from both continents and bringing African-European perspectives on energy into the limelight:



The African School of Regulation Policy Dialogue: Renewable Generation and Regional Power Trade in Africa
February – Madrid, Spain

Four virtual AEEP Energy Talks bringing together experts from both continents

AEEP Forum during the Africa Climate Summit
September – Nairobi, Kenya

Side event at Africa Climate Week on “Aligning Energy Access and Climate Compatibility in Africa”, in collaboration with Strathmore University and SDG 7 Youth Constituency
September – Nairobi, Kenya

High-level policymaker breakfast during the Africa Climate Summit, for Africa and European commissioners, energy ministers, private sector and civil society representatives, in collaboration with Africa Europe Foundation
September – Nairobi, Kenya

AEEP Forum 2023

The annual, high-level AEEP Forum was organised as a side event at the Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya, in September 2023. As the flagship event of the AEEP, and after two years of virtual fora during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2023 edition was held under the theme “Building Bridges for Green Growth”. Over 120 participants were onsite in Nairobi and 100 registered for online livestream participation. It brought together a variety of voices to discuss aspects of Africa-EU partnership for climate compatible energy access. Participants underlined the importance of acknowledging the diverse landscape of stakeholders and their roles in ensuring sustainable energy access.

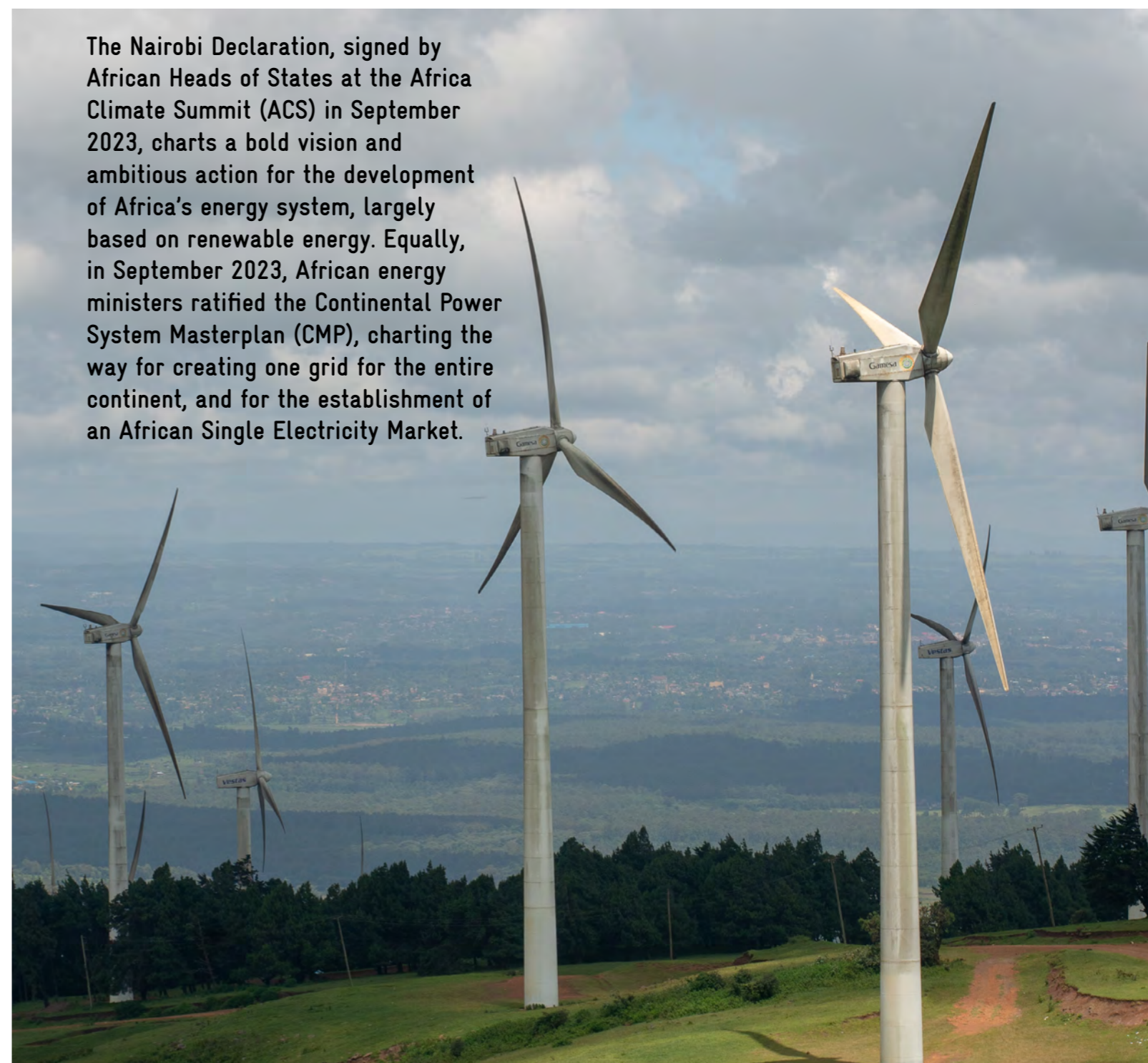


“Platforms like the AEEP Forum and the AEEP Energy Talks webinar series serve as crucial avenues for discussion, fostering collaboration among AU, EU and other stakeholders. I am optimistic that the discussions will lead to a deeper understanding of the challenges and facilitate greater alignment in the pursuit of climate compatible energy access and security.”

– Dr Kamugisha Kazaura, Director of Infrastructure & Energy, African Union Commission



The Nairobi Declaration, signed by African Heads of States at the Africa Climate Summit (ACS) in September 2023, charts a bold vision and ambitious action for the development of Africa’s energy system, largely based on renewable energy. Equally, in September 2023, African energy ministers ratified the Continental Power System Masterplan (CMP), charting the way for creating one grid for the entire continent, and for the establishment of an African Single Electricity Market.



FACES & STORIES

GIZ works to shape a future worth living around the world. However, the true impact of our work lies in its effects on people's lives. Throughout Africa, numerous inspirational individuals exemplify the diversity of our efforts and the work we do. Whether in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda or Zimbabwe, the champions of these success stories come from diverse backgrounds – passionately driven, commanding their paths, and contributing to improve the lives of many others. We are honoured to support them alongside our partners and delighted to share their stories with you.

REBECCA CHEROP

AU Bingwa and Member of the Youth Advisory Team for Health (YAT4H), Uganda

"I frequently experienced a sense of constraint in my ability to accomplish things due to factors that were outside of my influence. Nonetheless, my involvement with the Youth Advisory Team for Health (YAT4H) has demonstrated to me that these constraints can indeed be surmounted. Of utmost significance is the fact that I have been given numerous chances to offer my input and exert influence on the decision-making that contribute to shaping Africa CDC's initiatives. For instance, our YAT4H meticulously drafted a concept note for the groundbreaking development of the Youth Engagement Strategy which will be unveiled during the second quarter of 2024.

In addition, I had the opportunity to cultivate a diverse set of skills, encompassing leadership, effective communication, collaborative work, and the ability to tackle challenges head on."



I am simply amazed by the tremendous influence that the Youth Advisory Team for Health and the AU Bingwa Initiative have had on the lives of young Africans dealing with public health issues.

Youth engagement has been a catalyst for advancing health security in Africa. With GIZ support, the African Union and Africa CDC established the AU Bingwa COVID-19 Vaccination Initiative, which mobilised a network of youth champions to increase the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination. The annual Africa CDC Youth Pre-Conference provides a unique platform for youth to contribute their ideas to the policy- and decision-making processes of the Africa CDC. In this context, a Youth Advisory Team for Health (YAT4H) was formed to advocate and represent the interests of young Africans.



SABINA NGWANCHANG NFORBA

AU Tech Fellow at the Office of the AU Youth Envoy, Cameroon

"The AU Tech Fellowship has given me the unique opportunity to spearhead innovation and digitalisation at the helm of governance in Africa – the African Union Commission. As a technology ecosystem builder in my home country, avid advocate for digitalisation in Africa and a critical accelerator for sustainable development, I have worked to add value to the delivery of services at the AU using technology.

Among other things, I successfully developed and deployed a data management system that facilitates communication between teams, aids collaboration among team members, and stores relevant data. It also acts as a knowledge transfer tool that allows sharing tacit knowledge among staff that is useful for the Commission's frequent recruitment of employees."

It is a huge responsibility driving digitalisation at the AU Commission to propel the AU's goal for an integrated and inclusive digital society and economy in Africa that improves the quality of life of its citizens.

The African Union established the AU Tech Fellowship programme to enable the AU and its organs to use innovative approaches to drive their mandate especially in the area of governance and citizens engagement. The fellowship deploys 13 digital experts from the African continent to different AU organs. These fellows enhance innovation and technology processes within the AU and promote a closer engagement with the African innovation ecosystem.

MUNANG OTHNIEL BUNGO

Reconciliation and Development Association, Environmental Protection Officer, Cameroon

"Before coming to the Youth Forum on Adaptation Finance in Africa (YAF), I had organised a virtual symposium on renewable energy in Cameroon. But I did not know more about experts in this field nor great organisational bodies working on combating and adapting to climate change and renewable energy. Attending this programme gave me greater knowledge and a better understanding of what, why, when, and how I need to take the necessary steps to align myself to the fight against climate change. Partaking in the sharing and learning process made me realise the potentials we have in Africa to mitigate and adapt to it but also limiting factors. Additionally, I networked with youth, and this gave me a spark to keep pushing harder in my local communities and also expand my abilities to enable solutions on climate adaptation."

I had the best experience at YAF Forum 2023 while meeting young people and experts from all regions in Africa, who had the chance to speak on behalf of African youth.

The inaugural Youth Forum on Adaptation Finance in Africa (YAF) in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in November 2023 was jointly organised by the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance and the Africa Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access in partnership with the African Union Africa Adaptation Initiative, the project Resilience Initiative Africa (RIA) and other stakeholders. More than 150 youth actors exchanged on the current state of adaptation finance in Africa and designed innovative solutions to reach the goals of the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan. They developed a joint declaration on adaptation finance for Africa – the Yaoundé Call, which was presented at COP28 in Dubai.



ABEBE MENGAW WUBIE (PHD)

Assistant Professor and Vice Dean at Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia

“My journey with the DAAD / NELGA scholarship has been transformative. I earned my PhD in Land Policy and Governance, specialising in Land Use Management and Decision Support Systems. The scholarship covered not only tuition and research fees but also opened doors to opportunities like a summer school in Germany, enhancing my skills and connecting me with global scholars. Six months at the Technical University of Munich allowed me to publish research articles and engage in conferences. Now, as assistant professor and vice dean at the Institute of Land Administration at Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia, I lead research projects, coordinate programmes, and envision impactful research in land governance. My story exemplifies the scholarship’s successful transformative impact on young scholars, fostering growth in Africa and beyond.”

Honestly, the scholarship was a good opportunity to realise many of my dreams.

Through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA), the programme Strengthening Advisory Capacities for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA) offers students scholarships and academic opportunities to enhance their knowledge of land governance in Africa. The scholarship supports the African Union’s Land Agenda by closing capacity gaps on land governance, thereby contributing to the continent’s economic and social development.

DR FRANK ANINI

Head of Training Section, Integrated Industry Training, Entrepreneurship Database Hub for Young Entrepreneurs, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Ghana

“The launch workshop and establishment of learning communities provided us with a space to connect with new people from across the continent and gather valuable lessons to improve the implementation of our own projects. One of the key takeaways for me from the study tours was that it is essential to build a relationship with the private sector to identify the skills needed to increase youth employability and ensure their integration into the labour market. The study tours also demonstrated that we need to create a supportive environment for trainees, not just as employees, but also as entrepreneurs. It is crucial to come up with ideas and strategies that can assist us in training people with the right skills to meet the needs of the industry.”



The study tours were particularly eye-opening. They showed us the real experience going on in industries and the many ways we can put these lessons into practice to strengthen our project.

The Grantee Technical Support Initiative builds technical capacity and provides peer and expert input to grantees of funded projects, for example through robust knowledge management processes to generate lighthouse models and approaches that can be replicated and scaled. The initiative was launched at a workshop in South Africa in late 2023 which included two study tours to take the grantees beyond the meeting room and get hands-on learning experiences.



The Tana Forum was a game changer in the area of peace and security in Africa.

DR HESPHINA RUKATO

Expert for African Development and Peace, Security and Governance, Zimbabwe

“The Tana Forum has successfully set the peace and security agenda for the African Union, global practitioners, and policy-makers. It has advanced Africa’s voice in these areas and demonstrated the potential for positive change with strong leadership. One memorable event was when the first chairperson, H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, symbolically threw his agbada* on the floor to highlight the informal nature of Tana.

The forum has received unanimous recognition for its achievements. It is important to build on its successes of the past ten years to ensure increased relevance and impact in achieving the AU’s agenda. In my view, the future of Tana primarily relies on three pillars: sustainable funding with significant contribution by Africans to show ownership; strong and decisive leadership within the forum’s structures; and a focused agenda with an action plan for strong impacts.”

The Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa (Tana Forum) at Lake Tana in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, is a political dialogue conference bringing together African leaders and stakeholders to find African-led peace and security solutions. The Tana Forum also strengthens the dialogue between the Global South and North by partnering with the Munich Security Conference in annual high-level side events as well as regional Munich Security Leaders Meetings on the continent.

*A traditional robe worn in West Africa

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

AU MEMBER STATES ALIGN TO COMBAT TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, JUNE 2023

Organised crime, serious crime, and cybercrime transcend borders, necessitating a coordinated, networked approach to combat them effectively. In response, African Union member states attended a two-day conference hosted by the Ethiopian Police University and facilitated by the AU's Mechanism for Police Cooperation's (AFRIPOL) Training and Capacity Building Department.



This conference, supported by the Police Programme Africa, took place on 27 to 28 June 2023 in Addis Ababa. It saw the participation of 32 member states, along with strategic partners such as the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), and the German Embassy in Addis Ababa. Participants deliberated on their training and capacity-building needs, identified strategic approaches to address them, and presented their findings for further discussion. They also explored methods to enhance cooperation and coordination, as well as strategies to overcome obstacles.

The conference proved to be successful, with active participation, robust engagement, and member states endorsing the conference's recommendations. As a follow-up, member states agreed to report on their progress before the end of the year to ensure alignment of strategies and implementation. Subsequently, in December 2023, a second virtual meeting allowed countries to share their progress.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

PRETORIA / JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, NOVEMBER 2023

African women and girls continue to experience gender-based violence fuelled by unequal power relations and patriarchal norms and structures. To address this scourge, in 2020, the AU established the High-Level Presidential Initiative on Positive Masculinity, mobilising AU leadership and decision-makers to prevent and end violence against women and girls in Africa. The Initiative will grow a movement for positive masculinity and meaningful engagement of men and boys in advancing gender equality and women's rights in Africa.

Specifically, this topic is carried out through the annual AU Men's Conference. The third edition under the theme "Consolidating Commitments Towards the African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls" (EVAWG) was co-hosted by H.E. Azali Assoumani, the 2023 AU Chairperson and President of Comoros, alongside H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa. It provided a platform for considering recommendations on the content of the draft AU Convention on EVAWG and the Common African Position on Positive Masculinity, as well as consolidated bold continental efforts that heads of state and other male leadership across different sectors have taken towards EVAWG.

The Convention secures political commitment and amplifies renewed state accountability to protect, promote, and fulfil women's and girls' rights to be free from any form of violence in Africa.



ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY

MARCH 2023

Gender equality is a human right as well as a guiding principle and quality aspect of GIZ's work. The German Government supports the African Union Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment agenda guided by the norms and standards in the Maputo Protocol, the AU's human rights instrument. 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of its adoption as the most comprehensive treaty on women's rights globally.

Following the joint launch of the BMZ Feminist Development Policy and the Feminist Foreign Policy by the German Federal Foreign Office in March 2023, GIZ AU undertook deliberate measures to align its work to the newly adopted policies and advance women's empowerment in political, social, and economic spheres. The commissioning of the new project Promotion of Human Rights and Women's Empowerment in Africa (AWARE) attest to these efforts. AWARE focuses on improving the implementation of AU commitments on human rights and women's empowerment by leveraging the human rights-based and transformative approaches through the 3Rs lens – rights, resources, and representation. Additionally, GIZ AU is undertaking an assessment to evaluate its programmes' and projects' contribution to the 3Rs

and align it to the principles of the policies. The results will feed into new measures, and most importantly lead to a dialogue with the AU and other partners on the best possible harmonisation of policies in the areas of the cooperation.



UNLOCKING AFRICA'S DATA POTENTIAL

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, NOVEMBER 2023

Digital cooperation stands as the cornerstone of the strategic partnership between the African Union and the European Union (EU), as emphasised at the 2022 EU-AU Summit's joint vision for 2030 for sustainable development. The multi-donor initiative "Data Governance in Africa" supports the operational aspects of the AU-EU partnership, aiming to tackle challenges and foster a development-oriented and human-centric data economy across Africa.



A key event within this initiative is the inaugural Data Governance and Innovation Forum for Africa (DGIFA), hosted by the African Union Commission (AUC) with support from the programme Harmonised and Inclusive Digital and Data Policies in Africa (DataCipation). Taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 17 to 18 November, it convened distinguished leaders and experts from diverse sectors, including public and private sectors, academia, and civil society. They explored the pivotal role of data in shaping Africa's digital economy and society.

The forum – centring discussions on the implementation of the AU Data Policy Framework – sought to lay the groundwork for the scaling of data-driven innovative solutions, with a clear emphasis on the harmonisation of data policies across the continent. DGIFA emerged as a beacon of ideas, collaboration, and strategic coordination, reshaping Africa's digital narrative through data. More than a mere intellectual gathering, DGIFA embodied a call to action!

ENHANCING URBAN RESILIENCE THROUGH RISK INFORMED DEVELOPMENT

NAIROBI, KENYA, SEPTEMBER 2023



The inaugural African Climate Summit 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya, addressed the continent-wide impacts of climate change, underlining the urgent need for immediate climate action and sustainable financing solutions to global environmental challenges.

Despite Africa's low contribution to GHG emissions, the continent remains the most vulnerable to hazards and risks arising from climate change. The regional project Resilience Initiative Africa (RIA) is dedicated to tackle those severe effects on the continent and its cities, which face heightened

exposure due to their dense population, economic activities, and extensive infrastructure. Together with the African Union Commission (AUC) Directorate of Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy (SEBE), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Regional Office for Africa, Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and other partners, RIA presented its approach to urban resilience building and risk-informed urban development at the Summit.

As part of this events, participants showcased best practices and approaches for strengthening institutional capacities and empowering cities to assess their disaster risk management strategies transitioning from disaster response to adaptation and resilience.

Through fruitful exchanges, stakeholders identified new areas for joint action with representatives from informal settlements, which are disproportionately affected by climate risks.

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE FOR AFRICAN WOMEN IN DIGITAL HEALTH

KIGALI, RWANDA, OCTOBER 2023

African women are making significant contributions to advance healthcare through technology, yet they are met with unfavourable environments. To address this gender gap in digital health, the Africa Centres for Disease Control (Africa CDC) has made it a priority to promote women's inclusion in digital health as part of its Digital Transformation Strategy. In line with this initiative, GIZ is co-leading the working group of its newly launched flagship programme, the African Women in Digital Health (AWiDH).



As part of its inaugural activities, AWiDH was introduced at the Africa Health Tech Summit in Kigali, Rwanda, through a panel discussion titled "Breaking Barriers: Women Shaping the Future of Digital Health in Africa." The panel discussed the challenges faced by women in various aspects of digital health policy development and implementation, as well as in accessing digital healthcare tools. The session also underscored effective strategies needed to narrow the existing gender gap.

The AWiDH working group will undertake various activities to enhance the capacity of African Union member states in the gender mainstreaming of their digital health strategies and amplifying the voices of African women in digital health across all levels.

UNIFIED VOICES: DRIVING POSITIVE EDUCATION CHANGE

NAIROBI, KENYA, NOVEMBER 2023 / GABORONE, BOTSWANA, DECEMBER 2023



Africa anticipates an increase in its youth population, forecasted to surpass 830 million by 2050. This demographic surge would hold the potential to enhance productivity and cultivate a more resilient and inclusive economic growth across the continent. However, Africa grapples with ongoing challenges in establishing responsive systems, policies, and mechanisms for skills development to meet the evolving economic landscape.

Together with AUDA-NEPAD and the AUC, the project Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) advocates for the establishment of strategic and purposeful collaboration among multi-stakeholder platforms to drive transformation in the skills and employment ecosystem. Towards this goal, two significant workshops were organised at the end of 2023. One workshop brought together TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) regulators to strengthen governance of TVET systems, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in November. The other workshop, taking place in Gaborone, Botswana, in December, involved skills representatives from RECs and development partners, seeking to pool and optimise resources, including toolkits and guidelines, and other knowledge products, sharing innovative practices and identifying synergies.

The workshops concluded with concrete agreements to improve these platforms for long-term engagement and dialogue, with a focus on defining actionable collaborations.

AFRICAN UNION LAUNCHES LAND GOVERNANCE STRATEGY

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, NOVEMBER 2023



Ensuring inclusive land governance is paramount to realising the goals outlined in the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063. During the biennial Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA), the AU launched its crucial Land Governance Strategy. This strategy addresses a wide spectrum of land-related challenges – from conflicts and land grabbing to degradation, gender inequality, and climate change – and signifies a crucial step towards comprehensive land governance solutions for the continent.

At the inauguration in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, H.E. Stefan Auer, Ambassador of Germany to Ethiopia and the African Union, emphasised the profound significance of the strategy,

highlighting its role in ensuring secure land access for low-income families and rural communities, which in turn fosters positive economic, social, and political outcomes. The launch marked a pivotal moment, uniting African states, the private sector, and development partners in a committed effort to reshape Africa's land governance and socio-economic landscape for a brighter future.

Supported by initiatives, such as the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa (NELGA), this framework is a milestone and a commitment to a transformative journey. It aims to unlock Africa's arable land to spur substantial economic growth, accelerate the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area, and alleviate poverty. The strategy stands as a collective dedication to securing and enhancing land rights for sustainable development across the continent.

AMPLIFYING AFRICA'S VOICE IN THE GLOBAL ORDER

NAIROBI, KENYA, SEPTEMBER 2023



Since its inception, the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa (Tana Forum) has had a special partnership with the Munich Security Conference (MSC): The MSC has frequently participated in the Tana Forum, while the Tana Forum has organised high-level side events at the MSC. In October 2023, the MSC and Tana Forum co-hosted the inaugural annual regional Munich Leaders Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya.

The event drew over 92 high-level decision-makers from more than 20 countries, including 12 African states, along with representatives from international organisations and

the broader security community. During the discussions, four key dimensions emerged as building blocks for fostering deeper transcontinental relations: a stronger African voice in the international system, building mutually beneficial partnerships, respecting international commitments and translating them into concrete policies, as well as shared values and common goals.

The inspiring two-day debates not only reinforced the longstanding partnership between the Tana Forum and the MSC but also provided invaluable insights for the forthcoming 2024 Tana Forum discussions.

AU-GIZ PARTNERSHIP BOOSTS REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INTEGRATION

ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA, SEPTEMBER 2023



Infrastructure development is crucial for realising the AU's Agenda 2063 aspirations. The programme Green Infrastructure Corridors for Intra-African Trade enhances this by providing technical advisory for strategic regional infrastructure planning to the AU and its partners. Central to the support in implementing the AU Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) is the Service Delivery Mechanism (SDM), which assists with early project preparation appraisal. This tool identifies potential roadblocks to achieving financial closure and ensures project quality by meeting various milestones.

A recent addition to the tool, the Green Check Methodology (GCM), ensures infrastructure projects are climate-resilient, recognising climate risks and sustainable solutions. Both the SDM and GCM were recognised at the AU Ministerial Meeting on Infrastructure in September 2023. This meeting is an important decision-making organ of the AU responsible for policy guidance in continental integration across infrastructure, transport, and energy sectors.

This four-day event highlighted the impact and relevance of these tools in infrastructure development. Member states present at the event went on to further acknowledge the AU-GIZ partnership as a positive example of implementing the PIDA Integrated Corridor Approach, underlining the impact of their joint efforts in advancing regional infrastructure integration across Africa.

FROM CONFLICT TO COOPERATION: A PEACE CARAVAN IN EAST AFRICA

KAJIADO - NAMANGA, KENYA, JUNE / JULY 2023

The Ateker border communities at the tri-junction of Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan are subject to frequent cross-border conflicts, cattle raids, and killings. Much of this tension has to do with unclear border demarcation. Contrarily, at the border between Kenya and Tanzania, the Maasai border community lead a harmonious co-existence. They benefit from a clear border demarcation and a one-stop border post for cross-border movement of people, cattle, and goods.



To understand the prevalent issue at the tri-junction, the African Union and the East African Community together with the programme Border Governance in Africa: Support to the AU Border Programme (AUBP) executed a peace caravan. The peace caravan consisting of local, traditional, and religious leaders, women and youth representatives, and civil society organisation, made their way to learn the ways of the Maasai community. They visited the border crossing point, the market where Tanzanians and Kenyans trade cattle, and saw the value addition at the Kenya Meat Commission where the meat products are processed and distributed across Kenya. This exercise demonstrated how cross-border cooperation and peaceful co-existence foster economic prosperity.

After the visits, the participants held a two-day dialogue session to discuss the lessons learned and the challenges they faced in their border areas. In conclusion, the Ateker border communities signed a resolution to promote and facilitate peaceful co-existence. A follow-up peace caravan will take place in 2024, which will focus on the ownership and implementation of the resolution.



OUTLOOK 2024

In 2024, our cooperation with the African Union and its institutions, as well as all our partners, will continue to thrive. We are anticipating exciting developments:

NEW AU THEME: THE YEAR OF EDUCATION

The 2024 AU Theme, "Educate an African fit for the 21st Century," emphasises modernising education to equip African youth with skills for success. It aligns with Agenda 2063's vision, accelerating reforms and securing stakeholder commitment for robust, inclusive education systems.

G20 SUMMIT IN BRAZIL

As the newest member of the G20, the African Union together with 19 member countries and the European Union, will take part in the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 18 to 19 November 2024.

HEALTH CONFERENCES

The following health conferences will take place:




Africa Health Tech Summit
Kigali, Rwanda, October 2024
Africa CDC Youth Pre-Conference
Rabat, Morocco, November 2024
4th International Conference on Public
Health in Africa (CPHIA)
Rabat, Morocco, November 2024

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Addis Ababa, 2024

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AFRICAN VOICES

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