

Annex

Kigali Declaration

We, African ministers, and senior officials responsible for environment and sustainable development, finance, economic and social development, agriculture, education, justice, statistics, the digital economy, science and technology, heads and members of delegations of the parliaments of African Union member States and experts representing Governments and intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and civil society,

Gathered online and in-person in Kigali from 3 to 5 March 2022 at the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, held under the theme of “Building forward better: a green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063” and placed under the high patronage of the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame,

Expressing our gratitude to the President and Government of Rwanda for having hosted the Forum and having ensured that all the necessary conditions were in place for the successful completion of its work, which was marked by fruitful and high-quality discussions on the monitoring and evaluation of the progress achieved, the exchange of experiences in the area of sustainable development in Africa, and the formulation of key messages aimed at accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union,

Considering that the health and socioeconomic impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic rolled back efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in developing countries, and that the diverging paths to recovery from the pandemic between developed and developing countries could mean longer periods of recovery for developing countries,

Considering also the disproportionate impact of climate change on the African continent given its low-carbon footprint, the role of the continent in capturing greenhouse gases, and its needs to mitigate and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change,

Recalling and reaffirming the Brazzaville Declaration, adopted at the seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on sustainable Development,

Noting the need for scaled up and sustainable finance for an inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and accelerated delivery of sustainable development in Africa,

Welcoming the establishment of the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility as mechanism for improving market access for African countries and, in particular, for crowding in private-sector investment in the green recovery of the continent,

Welcoming the launch of the Alliance of Entrepreneurial Universities in Africa and the African Technology Development and Transfer Network, which have been established to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices among academic and research institutions across the continent,

Expressing support for the ongoing process, under the Convention on Biological Diversity, of developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a global policy framework for achieving accelerated action and transformative pathways for biodiversity and sustainable development,

1. *Reiterate our commitment to accelerating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, including through ensuring a green and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic on the continent, aligned with the objectives of the decade of action to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals;*

2. *Demand* that developed countries facilitate equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines to enable African countries to recover faster from the COVID-19 pandemic, through inter alia: a moratorium on the application to developing countries of Articles 65 and 66, on transitional arrangements and least-developed country members, respectively, of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights; and technical assistance to improve supply chains efficiency, technology transfer and manufacturing capacity;

3. *Urge* African countries to link mutually-reinforcing policies for sustainable development and COVID-19 recovery to ensure an inclusive emergence from the pandemic, in line with the tenets of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

4. *Call upon* African countries, pan-African institutions, the United Nations and development partners to invest more in the generation of statistics that are relevant and timely, to inform national, regional and global development agendas, leveraging opportunities provided by new data sources, geospatial technologies, the United Nations global platform on big data for official statistics and regional data hubs in Africa, to facilitate capacity-development and the modernization of the national statistical systems of countries in Africa, involving young people in the decision-making processes relating to the sustainable development agenda;

5. *Call upon* African countries to leverage new tools, innovative solutions and technology, including through enhanced partnerships with the private sector, academia, non-governmental and civil-society organizations and others, to build strong, agile, sustainable and resilient national statistical systems;

6. *Invite* African countries to invest in developing more resilient education systems and to adopt resilient and risk-informed approaches to planning in the education sector, and to prioritize digital connectivity and capacities to achieve learning for all and skills development;

7. *Call upon* African countries to strengthen institutional arrangements, including gender-inclusive national strategies, to enhance national ownership and responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and accountability of the gender-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in all sectors and at all levels of government;

8. *Also call upon* African countries to strengthen their institutional capacities to enforce laws and regulations on the sustainable use of marine resources, to open up new opportunities for gender-sensitive and inclusive blue entrepreneurship, innovation, finance, value-chains and trade, and to support the “Great Blue Wall” initiative to build climate-resilient societies and economies;

9. *Call upon* the entities of the United Nations system, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other partners to strengthen the capacity of African countries to leverage the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility and other innovative financing mechanisms, including green and blue bonds and debt swaps for biodiversity and sustainable development;

10. *Call upon* African countries and their development partners to strengthen the capacity of the region to incorporate and increase investment in sustainable biodiversity and land management within national, subregional and regional development frameworks;

11. *Call upon* all parties to the Glasgow Climate Pact to establish an ambitious and reasonable price for carbon, aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, to allow developing countries in Africa and elsewhere to

mobilize adequate financial resources to meet their climate commitments, including those made through the nationally determined contributions and Paris Agreement, while accelerating progress on towards the Sustainable Development Goals and allowing African countries to fully benefit from their natural heritage;

12. *Call upon* the entities of the United Nations system to build the capacity of the countries of the Congo Basin to deliver funding for sustainable development through the Blue Fund for the Congo Basin to support the implementation by these countries of their nationally determined contributions, to estimate their capacity for carbon sequestration, and develop livelihoods that are linked to the subregion's unique natural capital;

13. *Call for* the adoption of reforms to the international financial architecture that integrate innovative financing mechanisms that are initiated and led by African countries to ensure African debt sustainability and to support the development of nature-based solutions and a green and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

14. *Call for* renewed vigour on the part of African Governments, the entities of the United Nations system and development partners in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, including with regard to strengthening opportunities to improve domestic resource mobilization through sustainable budgeting principles that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the Paris Agreement, and for renewed global solidarity in respect of public investment in the implementation of these agendas, on the basis of the principle of leaving no one behind;

15. *Reaffirm* that developed countries must honour their commitment to pay \$100 billion annually to help developing countries respond to the cascading threats of climate change to the land, water and oceanic resources of Africa and to mitigate the impact on African economic growth and on livelihoods of its people;

16. *Urge* African countries to leverage the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement to support the development of regional value chains, especially those for minerals used in the production of batteries and electric vehicles, to enable African countries to capture more value along global value chains;

17. *Also urge* African countries to increase their investments in research and development to at least the 1 per cent of gross domestic product, as recommended by the African Union, to boost their capacity to generate technologies and innovations in the marine and digital domains, to support sustainable the use of land and water ecosystems, and to build climate- and disasters-resilient economies and societies, including through research and development in the medical and health sectors, to reduce their vulnerability and foster the economic transformation of their economies and improve the lives and livelihoods of their peoples;

18. *Further urge* African countries to increase investment in the building of foundational skills for education in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and to establish centres of excellence to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices;

19. *Call upon* all countries to implement the key messages adopted at the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;

20. *Request* the Government of Rwanda to present the key messages on behalf of Africa: at the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in New York from 5 to 15 July 2022; at the twenty-seventh

session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and at other subregional, regional and global forums convened to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.
