

Permanent Observer Mission of the
AFRICAN UNION to the
United Nations

الاتحاد الأفريقي




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The Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations presents its compliments to the African Permanent Missions to the United Nations and, has the honor to transmit herewith, to the kind attention of their Excellencies, African Permanent Representatives, for consideration, the Draft Statement to be delivered by the Chairman of the African Group at the upcoming High Level Expert Group Meeting on the theme, **"Towards the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063: Enhancing the management of Africa's Extractive industries to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development, structural economic transformation and inclusive and resilient economic growth"** scheduled to be held on 24 February 2015.

The Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the African Permanent Missions to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration. 

New York, February 19, 2015



TO: Their Excellencies
African Permanent Representatives
to the United Nations
African Permanent Missions to the UN
New York

**MISSÃO PERMANENTE
DA REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE
JUNTO ÀS NAÇÕES UNIDAS**



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Statement

By

His Excellency António Gumende

**Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique and Chair of the
African Group in New York**

at the

High-level Experts Group Meeting

**Towards the Post-2015 Development Agenda and
the African Agenda 2063:**

**Enhancing the management of Africa's Extractive Industries to promote
inclusive and sustainable industrial development, structural economic
transformation and inclusive and resilient economic growth**

New York, 24 February 2015

- His Excellency, Mr. Sam Kutesa, President of the United Nations General Assembly
- Her Excellency, Ms. Fatima Haram Acyl, AU Commissioner for Trade and Industry
- Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency
- Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, UN-USG and Special advisor on Africa

At the outset, I would like to thank the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), for co-organizing this event and for their continued support and cooperation with the African Union in promoting the continent's development agenda.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to address you at this High-level Expert Group Meeting under the theme: "Towards the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063- Enhancing the management of Africa's Extractive industries to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development, structural economic transformation and inclusive and resilient economic growth. This theme is very timely as it highlights the importance of transforming Africa's economies to more industrial based economics through value addition and better management of mineral resources. Indeed, the importance of Africa's economic transformation and industrialization cannot be separated, considering the important role that the industry sector could play in the socio-economic development of the continent.

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is well-known that Africa is one the richest regions of the world in terms of mineral resources endowment and yet economically the least developed, with more than three quarters of countries that are classified as least developed located on the continent. Thus Africa has generally drawn little benefit from its vast mineral resource wealth.

Recent developments underscore the need for the intensification of Africa's efforts to develop and implement a comprehensive framework for sustainable economic development for the benefits of the peoples. By 2013, the commemoration of OAU 50th anniversary, the African Union (AU) found itself in a new conducive environment for taking bold steps to advance the socio-economic development and integration of the continent through long-term planning.

For instance, by OAU 50th anniversary, colonialism had been greatly defeated and apartheid dismantled, Member states were better organized with major advances in many areas such as in conflict management and resolution, and good governance where the important role of civil society highly recognized. In addition, consensus had been reached on making the better-organized RECs pillars of the continental organization; and above all, member states had agreed on a common vision of creating "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena."

Consequently, during the OAU Golden Jubilee, after an intense reflection of the situation in the last fifty years, the African leaders adopted the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration in which they identified eight priority areas to focus their

attention, pursuing this vision, the Agenda 2063 was articulated to be a well-conceived plan for the realization of the AU common vision coming the next fifty years, when the AU will be celebrating the OAU Centenary.

In over all, the Agenda 2063 is a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years that would harmonize and integrate all plans and frameworks available at national, regional and continental levels under one umbrella for their successful execution and for the advancement of integration in Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Africa's growth has been traditionally propelled by the export of agricultural goods and unprocessed minerals. However, the dependence on just a few commodities for revenues has made it vulnerable to the fluctuation of prices in international markets. It therefore becomes a crucial need for the expansion of manufacturing and processing industries as well as mineral beneficiation schemes on the continent to add value and scale up the creation of employment opportunities.

The issue of economic transformation through accelerating industrial development has been underscored in agenda 2063 and in the contribution of Africa to the ongoing global debate on post-2015 Development agenda as a part of the Common Africa Position.

At the core, the agenda 2063 and the Common African Position on Post-2015 development Agenda address the key challenge facing Africa today: how to transform its economies from primary resource dependent to more dynamic and diversified industrial economies. In both strategies, Africa underscores

diversification, industrialization and value addition as the development priorities for the continent and calls to emphasize these factors in the outcomes of the post-2015 negotiation process.

Africa has no doubt that accelerating industrial development is the catalyst to create employment, enhance domestic revenues, improve balance of payment, guarantees food security and achieve sustainable development on the continent. History told us no region of the world has ever developed without industrialization.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Economic diversification involves the implementation of sound industrial policies that promote value addition in the traditional sectors and the development of agro-industries as well as mineral beneficiation.

In addition, the industrial policies in the continent need to encourage and support economic diversification activities, strengthen private sector and promote regional and cross-border trade in Africa.

Economic diversification should be promoted through innovation and investing in research and development, building human and institutional capacities. Economic policies should provide the necessary support through the creation of favorable business environment that attracts local and international investments.

If economic diversification is accompanied by sound economic policies and innovative institutions that encourage trade and exports, the exploitation of Africa's resources could provide increased opportunities for the continent to

produce and trade varieties of goods within Africa and in the global market and integrates Africa to the global value chains.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The process of articulating the post 2015 development agenda is currently underway and it is important that the key development priorities of Africa are firmly integrated into the development agenda beyond 2015 to ensure meaningful outcomes from the process.

We will not succeed in eradicating poverty without sustained economic growth and without addressing the issues on how Africa can increase its productive capacities and restructure its economy. I believe that this meeting will help to address these issues and will underscore Africa's industrialization and economic transformation as key priorities for the sustainable development in Africa and take these issues forward in the post-2015 development process.

Ladies and Gentlemen

By endorsing the agenda 2063 and the Common African Position on Post-2015 development Agenda our Heads of State and Government have given us the marching orders to work towards ensuring that the abundant mineral resource endowment of Africa serves as a base for the attainment of sustainable economic growth and development of the continent and I have no doubt about the contribution which this session can make towards meeting the expectation of our leaders.

Thank you

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Statement By His Excellency Antonio
Gumende Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Mozambique and
Chair of the African Group in New York
at the High-level Experts Group
Meeting Towards the Post-2015
Development Agenda and the African
Agenda 2063: Enhancing the
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