



OPENING REMARKS

BY

**H.E. AMB. FATHALLAH SIJILMASSI
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE AUC**

**AT G7 HIGH-LEVEL WEBINAR -
PRESENTATION OF THE G7 APULIA
PROGRESS REPORT 2024**

29 NOVEMBER 2024 | 14:30 – 16:30HRS

Excellency Ambassador Stefano Gatti, Director General for Development Cooperation at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,

Excellencies, Ambassadors and Senior Officials;

Distinguished colleagues;

All protocols duly observed;

Allow me to thank you for the invitation and the opportunity to participate to this important event.

I would like to start by congratulating this year's Italian G7 presidency for its activities and in particular to note with great appreciation that the Italian G7 presidency has made Africa a key priority of the G7 development Agenda.

This initiative to hold informal consultations with African Union Commission is indeed timely. We understand that the Report you are preparing is a G7 report and we are not here in this framework to co-write or co-validate the report. Had it been so, we would have due processes in our organisation and with our Member States to observe. But I am very happy to be with you today with other representatives from the AUC and colleagues from AUDA NEPAD to share with you informally a few thoughts and contributions.

H.E Commissioner Albert Muchanga, who is the AU Sherpa for the G20 and therefore naturally covering a lot of subjects that are on our agenda today would have been delighted to participate but he had prior commitments and asked me to represent him.

Excellencies,

As you probably already know, in 2013, the African Union Member States developed the Agenda 2063 to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the AU and to achieve inclusive and sustainable development, unity and self-reliance for Africa by 2063 within a set of clear continental priorities and flagship projects.

To the end of a proper and efficient implementation of this strategic Agenda, it has been decided to have Ten Years Implementation Plans.

In this line, a First Ten Year Implementation Plan was designed for the period 2013-2023.

This FTYIP laid a strong foundation for Africa's transformation, with notable strides in economic integration, governance, infrastructure development and strategic response to COVID 19.

In the spirit of close monitoring of the implementation of Agenda 2063, a thorough assessment has been undergone last year with the achievements but also the challenges and areas of observed weaknesses. Among the achievements, we can mention the launch of the AfCFTA and the response to the COVID crisis by Africa CDC, among others.

This assessment prepared the ground for the STYIP.

In addition, our Continent needed to take into consideration many international and continental evolutions at geopolitical, economic, digital, environmental, health levels.

With the assessment of the FTYIP and the need to incorporate new parameters stemming from international and continental realities, the Second Ten Year Implementation Plan was adopted by our Member States in February 2024 through an inclusive, consultative and participatory process.

Whereas the first decade concentrated on convergence around key strategic parameters, the Second decade is dedicated to the acceleration of the Implementation these strategic priorities. Accordingly, the Union will leverage the efforts and momentum that underpinned the increasing patterns of convergence as levers to accelerate progress in this second decade.

Building on such key elements as sustainable resource mobilization, accountability framework, resilience building, domestication and ownership, structural strengthening and the establishment of a dedicated development fund.

These strategic considerations underscore the AU's commitment to an adaptive approach in fostering holistic development across the African continent.

Excellencies, I wanted to share with you the main features of Agenda 2063 because, as all your countries are developing strategies for Africa (and we welcome such developments), there is an African Strategy for Africa!

We are happy to note that Agenda 2063 aligns very well with the SDGs. This is why we have developed very constructive and dynamic synergies with the UN with the motto "two frameworks, one goal".

We are also satisfied with the excellent partnerships we have with all of the G7 countries and the different facts and figures shown in the last report illustrate it very well.

We believe that as Africa is accelerating its regional integration dynamics and its efforts on such key issues such as peace, security, economic development, climate change, food security, health, humanitarian solidarity, social development, energy transition, infrastructure connectivity, education, innovation youth and gender, we can, we want and we should do more with all our international partners.

These international interactions speak of course to the development agenda of our Continent but also to the increasing role Africa plays on Global issues within the international community and the legitimate increased role it can play. In this regard, African union's recent membership to the G20 is a positive step. And it is in this spirit that we participated actively in the recent G20 Summit in Brazil, under the leadership of our current Chair of the Union H.E the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and we are looking forward to the South African G20 Presidency. Other steps should follow in order to provide our Continent with the legitimate place in the international community.

I wish us all fruitful and productive deliberations and want to assure all that the African Union Commission remains available for further interactions with all of you for all issues of mutual interest.

Thank you.