

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Cheikh Niang on behalf of
the African Group at the 2023 ECOSOC Partnership Forum
31 January, 2023**

Madam President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

At the outset, the Group wishes to thank you, for convening this important meeting to discuss how partnerships could reinforce our collective efforts towards **“Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.”**

Madam President, the degree, diversity and number of today’s global challenges are such that no single government or institution can address them alone. In this sense, the Group stresses that the full implementation of the SDGs provides a framework for addressing the world's most pressing challenges, including poverty, inequality, and climate change. Achieving the SDGs requires a global partnership that is forged on the basis of global cooperation and solidarity and on more engagement and participation, a partnership that can accelerate progress toward Sustainable Development Goals and builds a more resilient world. Thus, SDG 17 emphasizes the critical importance of partnerships for sustainable development, based on the assumption that partnerships will mobilize a wide range of stakeholders in the sharing of knowledge, expertise, technology, and resources towards achieving the global agenda.

Effective collaboration and cooperation should be integrated at all dimensions of development actions to bridge the gap between political, humanitarian, and

sustainable development responses, which is critical to addressing the socioeconomic dimension of any crisis. The Group underscores the need to strengthen partnerships and promote participation across actors, countries, and to identify and foster new ways of working in multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources that are essential for the full implementation of the SDGs, especially in developing countries. By collaborating with partners, we are also able to implement projects and reach regions and people in otherwise inaccessible contexts, (including situations of fragility and conflict).

Madam President, distinguished colleagues,

There is a dire need for long-term and affordable financing for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. The private sector has the financial resources, expertise, and innovation needed to support the implementation of both Agendas. To unlock the private sector potential, it is important to focus on building partnerships between the public and private sectors in form of public-private partnerships (PPPs), impact investing, and blended finance.

These forms of partnerships can help to leverage private sector investment and expertise to support sustainable development projects and initiatives. Another important step to unlock financing for SDG implementation is to create an enabling environment for private sector investment. This includes creating a stable and predictable policy environment, improving access to finance and information, and building capacity among private sector actors. It is essential that the private sector be aware of the opportunities and benefits of investing in sustainable development.

Madam President,

By 2050, Africa will have the largest and most youthful workforce, and must therefore start investing today in education, science, technology, research, and innovation; and reinforcing linkages with ICT, energy, industry, and agriculture. Youth play a vital role in the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and therefore must be actively engaged in intergenerational collaboration to ensure their successful achievement. With over 75% of Africa's 1.2 billion inhabitants under the age of 35, and 453 million Africans aged 15-35. It goes without saying that the development outcomes of Africa's young population have a significant and lasting effect on the continent's trajectory.

Through their energy, creativity, adaptability and innovative thinking, youth can bring fresh perspectives and solutions to the complex challenges facing our world. By working together across generations, we can harness the collective knowledge, skills, and experience of all members of society to create a more responsible, inclusive, sustainable and equitable future for all. Thus, the Group stresses the need for investments in human capital, skills and life-long learning, infrastructure, and resilience.

Madam President,

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in today's world is heavily dependent on the ability of multiple stakeholders to collaborate effectively. Sharing knowledge is a crucial element in facilitating partnerships, as it allows for the identification of priorities, common issues and the development of mutually agreed solutions. Interactive settings and innovative solutions are crucial in fostering these partnerships and driving progress toward the SDGs.

Furthermore, achieving the implementation of SDG 17 requires deliberate policy strategies that; strengthen partnerships; mobilize stakeholders at different scales to participate in partnerships; create and enhance linkages, and capacity building platforms.

We must be accountable for monitoring of financing for SDG implementation and put the South-South Cooperation as a guide for partnership within the Financing Frameworks to benefit of the myriad of economic, social, technical, and other knowledge resources from Southern countries.

UN multi-stakeholder partnerships must be based on transparency, accountability, engagement, and commitment, as well as participation and inclusiveness. The Group underlines the need for a clear division of roles and labour among the UN entities in dealing with partnerships, according to their respective mandates. The ECOSOC as the main coordinating organ for partnerships can play a more significant role in:

First- help to define a set of goals and objectives to guide the formulation of partnerships and establish measurable indicators to track progress.

Second- set up a system for regular monitoring and evaluation of the partnership to identify any challenges or areas for improvement.

Third- to fulfil transparency requirements, we have to ensure that all partners have access to relevant information.

Fourth- promote shared decision-making among partners to ensure that all voices are heard and that the partnership is responsive to the needs of all stakeholders.

Fifth- promote accountability of all partners in terms of their roles and responsibilities in achieving the goals of the partnership and ensure that any issues are addressed in a timely and effective manner.

Sixth- encourage participation and inclusiveness as an important criterion in the design and governance of partnerships as they guarantee that local context and specific sustainability priorities are taken into account. Multi-stakeholder partnerships can achieve increased participation and inclusiveness by offering a better stakeholder's representation.

Madam President,

In conclusion, the Group reiterates its commitment to promote effective partnerships including public, public-private and civil society partnerships with the aim to enhance the synergy of our joint efforts for the implementation of the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Today's forum will be an opportunity to hear directly from actual partnerships and to brainstorm all together on how we could replicate and scale up good practices. The contributions of Partnerships will be indispensable in this very critical context for sustainable development.

I thank you!