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Seminar on African Union Vision 2063 - migration,
regional integration and the AU Passport

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Dr Philani Mthembu

Executive Director

The Voices of the African People

We, the people of Africa and her Diaspora

Agenda 2063, rooted in Pan Africanism and African Renaissance, provides a robust framework for addressing past injustices and the realization of the 21st Century as the African Century

We echo the Pan African call that Africa must unite in order to realize its Renaissance

African Aspirations for 2063

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development

Africa's Blue/ocean economy, which is three times the size of its landmass, shall be a major contributor to continental transformation and growth, through knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport and fishing; and exploitation and beneficiation of deep sea mineral and other resources

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

We aspire that by 2063, Africa shall:

- Be a United Africa
- Have world class, integrative infrastructure that criss-crosses the continent;
- Have dynamic and mutually beneficial links with her Diaspora; and
- Be a continent of seamless borders, and management of cross-border resources through dialogue

Africa shall be an integrated, united, peaceful, sovereign, independent, confident and self-reliant continent

The political unity of Africa will be the culmination of the integration process, which includes the free movement of people and the establishment of continental institutions, leading to full economic integration. By 2030, there shall be consensus on the form of the continental governmental institutions.

Africa shall be a continent where the free movement of people, capital, goods and services will result in significant increases in trade and investments amongst African countries rising to unprecedented levels, and in strengthening of Africa's place in global trade.

By 2063, the necessary infrastructure will be in place to support Africa's accelerated integration and growth, technological transformation, trade and development. This will include high-speed railway networks, roads, shipping lines, sea and air transport, as well as well-developed ICT and the digital economy. A Pan African High Speed Train Network will connect all the major cities/capitals of the continent, with adjacent highways and pipelines for gas, oil, water, as well as ICT Broadband cables and other infrastructure. This will be a catalyst for manufacturing, skills development, technology, research and development, integration and intra-African trade, investments and tourism.

The world class infrastructure, accompanied by trade facilitation, will see intra-Africa trade growing from less than 12% in 2013 to approaching 50% by 2045. Africa's share of global trade shall rise from 2% to 12%. This will in turn spur the growth of Pan-African companies of global reach in all sectors.

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 value and ethics

Pan African ideals will be fully embedded in all school curricula and Pan African cultural assets (heritage, folklore, languages, film, music, theatre, literature, festivals, religions and spirituality) will be enhanced. The African creative arts and industries will be celebrated throughout the continent, as well as, in the diaspora and contribute significantly to self-awareness, well-being and prosperity, and to the world culture and heritage. African languages will be the basis for administration and integration. African values of family, community, hard work, merit, mutual respect and social cohesion will be firmly entrenched.

Culture, heritage and a common identity and destiny will be the centre of all our strategies so as to facilitate a Pan African approach and the African Renaissance.

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 and influential global player and partner

Africa is on an upward trend and seeks mutually beneficial relations and partnerships with other regions and continents. It therefore, looks at the nature of partnerships with a view to rationalizing them and enhancing the benefits to its transformation and its integration efforts. We shall do so by strengthening our common perspectives on partnerships and by speaking with one voice on priorities and views on global matters.

The Assembly of the African Union

We, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union assembled for the 24th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in January 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;

A Call to Action

Build and expand an African knowledge society through transformation and investments in universities, science, technology, research and innovation; and through the harmonization of education standards and mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications;

Establish an African Accreditation Agency to develop and monitor educational quality standards, with a view to expanding student and academic mobility across the continent

Developing the African private sector through engagement and a conducive climate, fostering Pan African businesses through the growth of regional manufacturing hubs and scaled up intra-Africa trade

Connect Africa through world-class infrastructure

- Transport: connecting all African capitals and commercial centres through the African Integrated High Speed Train Network, the PIDA transport corridors; improving the efficiency and connections of the African aviation sector and implementing the Yamoussoukro Declaration, and strengthening the African port and shipping sector as regional and continental assets.

Faster-track the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area by 2017, a programme to double intra-Africa trade by 2022, strengthen Africa's common voice and policy space in global trade negotiations and establish the financial institutions within agreed upon timeframes.

Ensure faster movement on the harmonization of continental admissions, curricula, standards, programmes and qualifications and raising the standards of higher education to enhance the mobility of African youth and talent across the continent.

Introduce an African Passport, issued by member States, capitalizing on the global migration towards e-passports, and with the abolishment of visa requirements for all African citizens in all African countries by 2018.

Enhance Africa's voice in global negotiations, through pooled sovereignty, integration and the development of common African positions.

We are resolutely moving towards continental unity: the speeding up of the regional integration process is a critical success factor for shared prosperity and peace. Political unity of Africa will be the culmination of the integration process, including the free movement of people, the establishment of the continental institutions, and full economic integration. By 2030, there shall be consensus on the form of the continental government and institutions.

Critical Enablers for Africa's Transformation

Strengthen and transform regional and continental institutions and the manner in which we do business, so as to effectively lead and drive the agenda for transformation and integration.

A Pan African perspective, through solidarity, integration, implementation of our programmes and pooled sovereignty on critical issues of continental and global dimensions.

We reaffirm our pledge in the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration to immediately align and integrate Agenda 2063 in our national and regional development plans and ensure that we provide the AU Commission and other regional and continental institutions with the necessary capacities and resources to effectively drive the implementation of Agenda 2063