



ECOSOC | Economic
and Social
Council | 75

CLOSING REMARKS

BY

**H.E. MR. COLLEN V. KELAPILE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)**

**AT THE SPECIAL HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON "*THE AFRICA WE
WANT: RECONFIRMING THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA AS
A PRIORITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM*"**

**CO-ORGANIZED BY THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 2022
17:00 HOURS**

**TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CHAMBER
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK**

Please check against delivery.

- **Excellencies,**
- **Distinguished Participants,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. First and foremost, I would like to thank you all for your contributions to today's **Special High-level Dialogue on *"The Africa We Want: Reconfirming the Development of Africa as a Priority of the United Nations System."***
2. Both the President of the General Assembly and I are heartened by your support to our Call to Action, issued on the occasion of this Special High-Level Dialogue. We hope our Call to Action will galvanize priority attention to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063.

3. Today, we heard from many of you the same concerns about the current energy and food crises, climate change, the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic and widening inequalities, and what these mean for Africa.
4. Over the years, our leaders made commitments to address Africa's development needs, which include both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.
5. However, the world is quite different today compared to when we made these commitments. Today, we are faced with multiple and compounding global crises.
6. As we continue to grapple with the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to strengthen development cooperation and global solidarity to address these global challenges.

Excellencies,

7. I must stress that our words and commitments are not enough. We need actions at all levels to demonstrate that the full implementation of both agendas in Africa is our top priority to uphold our guiding principle of leaving no one behind.
8. We must continue our efforts to ensure vaccine equity and to build resilience of African countries to future pandemics.
9. In the midst of these crises, debt sustainability remains a major challenge for Africa. African countries need the fiscal space for their recovery from the pandemic and to get back on track to achieve the two Agendas – the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

10. As we get ready for the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP27), that will take place in November in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, we must take into account Africa's specific climate vulnerabilities and leverage the continent's potential for a global green economy.
11. African countries need to be supported in their efforts to enhance the prevention, preparedness and resilience of their nations against climate change.
12. While we galvanize action to achieve these agendas, we must also acknowledge, build on and support the inspiring developments and initiatives that are happening all over the continent.

13. An encouraging development is that of six African countries, namely Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia, which will be receiving the technology needed to produce mRNA vaccines on the continent.

14. We welcome the initiatives of the African Union, as well as the UN system, the international and regional financial institutions and other partners to scale up their support to Africa for transformative change. This is critical for the implementation of African countries' national development strategies and plans.

Excellencies,

15. Both the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council continue to be active and engaged partners with Africa and its Member States.

16. Through its various Segments and Forums, the Economic and Social Council will continue to provide a platform to explore the opportunities and challenges facing the region.

17. Most recently, I convened the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), under the auspices of ECOSOC, which brought attention and identified solutions to current challenges in Africa.

18. And an impressive number of **21** African countries presented their VNRs this year demonstrating that the region is fully committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda, and also mindful of the imperative to embark on an SDGs-led recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Excellencies,

19. As we come to an end of this dialogue, I would like to express my appreciation to my co-convener, H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the United Nations General Assembly during its 76th session, for his commitment to the continent.

20. I also would like to thank his Office, and the Offices of the African Union Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations in New York, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UN-OSAA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA), the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (DGACM), as well as my team in the Mission for their support to this meeting.

I thank you all for your kind attention.