United Nations

A/72/269*–**S**/2017/780

the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, also initiated an institutional reform process to transform the organization into a self-reliant continental body by 2018.

6.   Member States of the African Union have devoted the year 2017 to harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth. In line with Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth, peace and security, in which the Council stressed the importance of creating policies on the engagement and participation of

Congo, Chad and Angola. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic also acted robustly to deter violence, protect civilians, support democratic institutions and foster political

23.   The Multinational Joint Task Force, establish

39.   To promote Africa's socioeconomic development and resilience to address the root causes of conflict, the United Nations system continued to provide a wide range of support. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and UNCTAD co-organized a high-level meeting on tourism and sustainable development in Africa in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization in July 2016. The meeting provided a unique platform for stakeholders in the tourism sector to discuss their contributions to Africa's achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States provided global platforms for knowledge-sharing on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) in Africa by organizing meetings on sustainable energy in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in December 2016 and on broadband connectivity in Dakar in February 2017.

40.   The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat provided advisory services to Guinea to develop e-governance in the country's sustainable development strategies and to bolster institutional and human resources to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In South Sudan, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in cooperation with Canada, implemented an $11 million project supporting fishing communities and industries, aimed at improving food security, creating jobs and sustaining the fisheries sector. The International Fund for Agricultural Development has also been collaborating with NEPAD under the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa to support the delivery of effective multisectoral nutrition interventions by Governments.

41.   Following decisions made at the World Humanitarian Summit, the United Nations country team in Nigeria, led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, developed a joint vision and a "critical path" towards a coordinated platform for the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance in the north-eastern area of the country, transcending the humanitarian-development divide in line with the new way of working.

42.   The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is providing technical, financial and human resources support to, among other things, the development of the 10-year action plan of the African decade of human rights (2016-2026) that

process to provide technological and financial support to the Mechanism and for the operationalization of the proposed African human security index, as outlined in Agenda 2063.

44. The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali and UN-Women provided support to State authorities in Mali to restore the rule of

49. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is contributing to the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel through a three-year capacity-building project to combat illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. Additionally, within the context of the Counter-

proximity may create national interests that may not have a positive impact on conflict resolution, proximity also reduces the cost of intervention.

55. In addition, the role of regional organizations in sustaining peace has become increasingly critical, especially in the face of emerging cross-border threats such as violent extremism, terrorism and transnational organized crime in the Lake Chad Basin, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, among other areas, as well as in several post-conflict settings in African countries in which there is a relapse into conflict. Furthermore, a few fragile and complex emergencies are still bedevilling Africa and resisting all existing conflict management frameworks.

56. In 2002, after the signing of its Constitutive Act, the African Union adopted the Protocol relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, following which the African Peace and Security Architecture was established. The goal was to provide African solutions to African challenges on peace and security matters. The main pillar of the Architecture is the Peace and Security Council, supported by the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System, the African Standby Force and the Peace Fund. The Protocol sets out various mechanisms to sustain peace, ranging from conflict prevention and management to post-conflict recovery.

57. The eight regional economic communities and two regional mechanisms for

64.

warning, while structural conflict prevention activities, such as youth empowerment and natural resource governance, had received relatively little or no support.

69. The regional economic communities are vital to the promotion of inclusive sustainable development. As they were initially established to facilitate subregional economic integration, they have developed various instruments to that effect and play a central role in promoting trade liberalization through the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area. In the long run, the efficiency gains caused by trade liberalization are expected to lead to positive employment effects, including improved youth employment. This therefore further contributes to the achievement of sustainable development and the creation of an environment conducive to peace and stability.

70. The African Union and the regional economic communities have been making great strides in norm-setting and policy development for the creation of an environment conducive to peace. However, the domestication and implementation of these policies and frameworks at the national, subregional and regional levels have not been executed speedily enough to effectively address the root causes of conflict owing to limited political will, inadequate monitoring and financial and technical constraints.

73.

information-sharing and communications technology, should be provided for the