

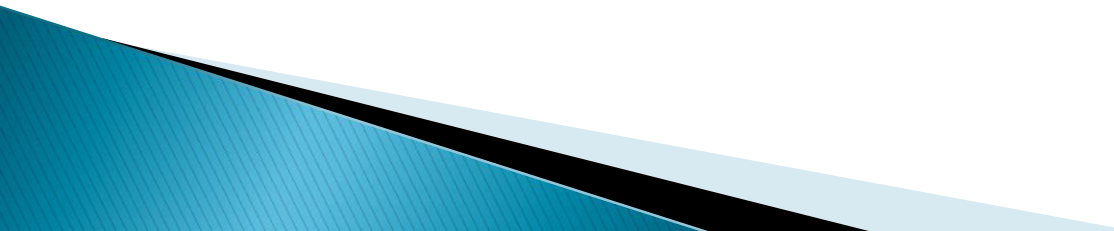
Assessment of the Lagos Plan of Action (1980–2000) and its connectedness to the AU Vision 2063”

By

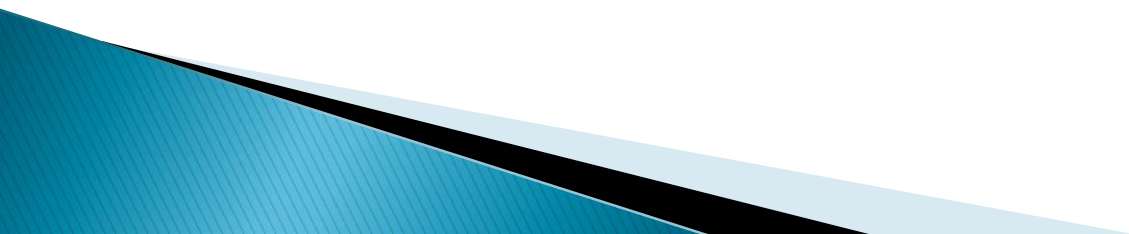
Emmanuel Innocents EDOUN, PhD

Introduction

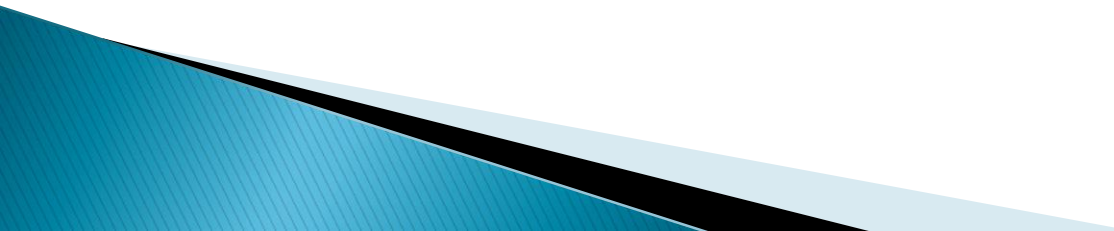
Following an assessment of Africa's economic problems by African Heads of State and Ministers as well as groups of experts during the 16th Ordinary Session, held in Monrovia, Liberia, in July, 1979

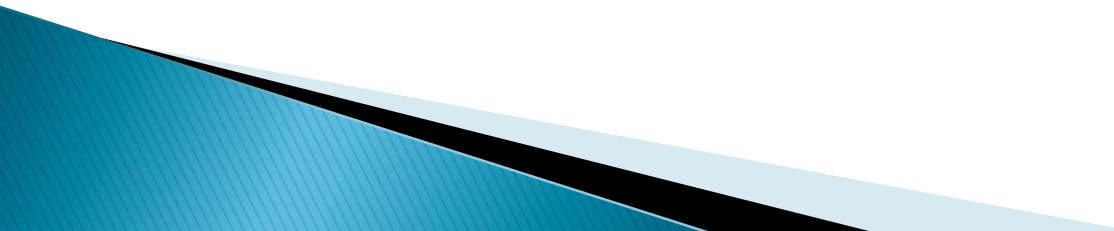


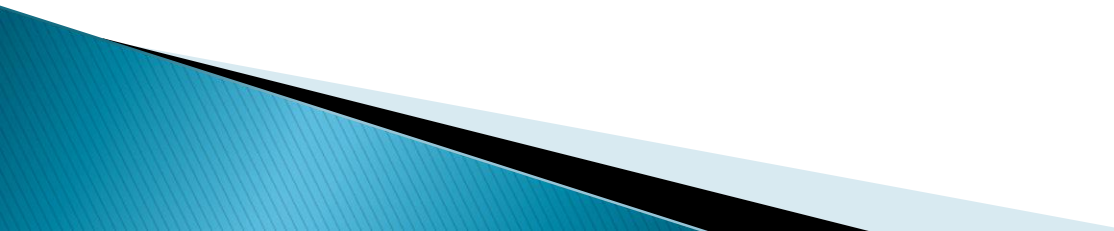
a declaration was adopted called the "Monrovia Declaration" This declaration covered a number of measures related to principles linked to collective self-reliance for Africa's economic and social development

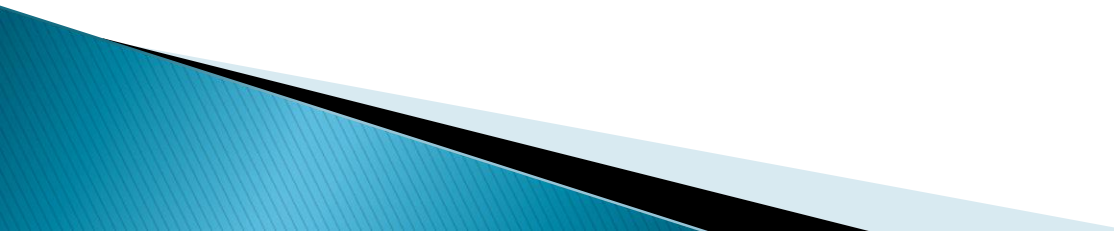


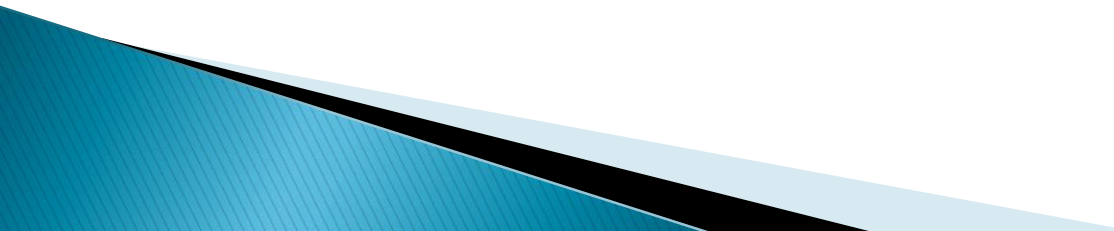
In adopting the Monrovia Declaration, they recognized "the need to take urgent action to provide the political support necessary for the success of the measures to achieve the goals of rapid self-reliance and self-sustaining development and economic growth", and declared to commit themselves individually and collectively, on behalf of their governments.



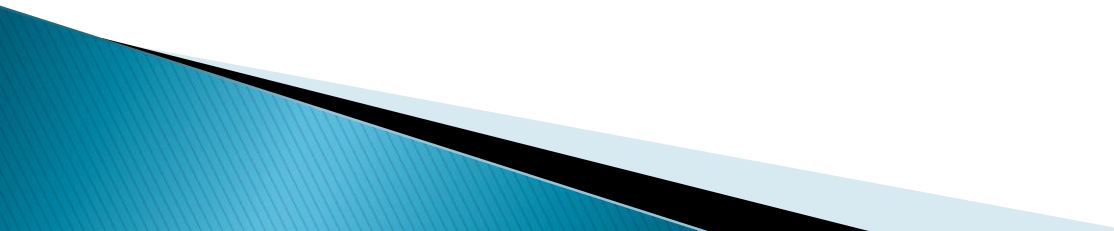
- ▶ “They commit themselves, individually and collectively, on behalf of their governments and peoples:
 - ❖ to promote the economic integration of the African region in order to facilitate and reinforce social and economic intercourse.
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- ▶ to establish national, sub-regional and regional institutions which will facilitate the attainment of objectives of self-reliance and self-sustainment.
 - ▶ to give an important place to the field of human resource development by starting to eliminate illiteracy in Africa;
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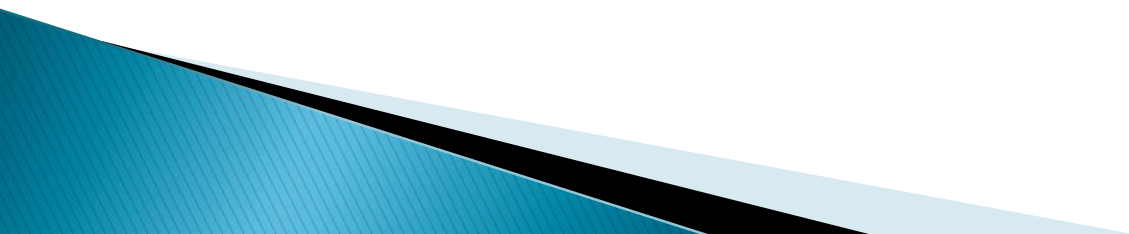
- ▶ to put science and technology in the service of development by reinforcing the autonomous capacity of their countries in this field;
 - ▶ To achieve self-sufficiency in food production and supply;
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- ▶ “They firmly held to the view that these commitments will lead to the creation, at the national, sub–regional and regional levels, of a dynamic and interdependent African economy and will thereby pave the way for the eventual establishment of an African Common Market leading to an African Economic Community.
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In order to consider concrete measures for the implementation of the Monrovia Declaration, they resolved to hold the Extraordinary Session in Lagos, Nigeria, to be devoted to the economic problems of Africa.

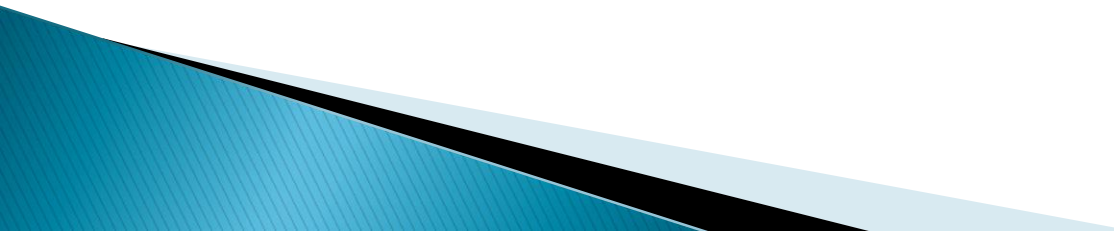


In assessing those problems, it was evident that Africa's underdevelopment was not inevitable beside the fact that Africa is rich both in human capital and natural resources .

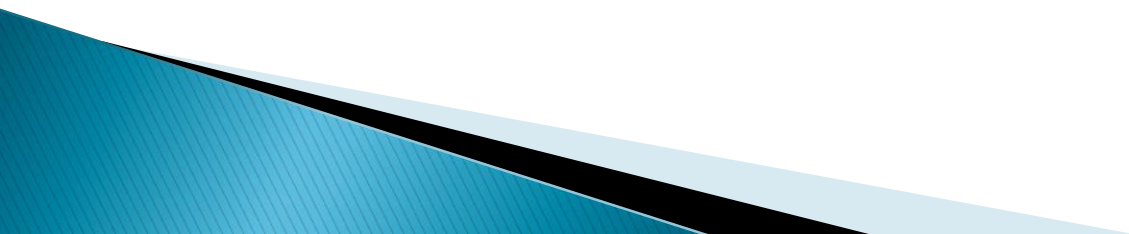


- ▶ In addition to its reservoir of human resources, Africa has 97 per cent of world reserves of chrome, 85 per cent of world reserves of platinum, 64 per cent of world reserves of manganese, 25 per cent of world reserves of uranium and 13 per cent of world reserves of copper, without mentioning bauxite, nickel and lead; 20 per cent of world hydro-electrical potential, 20 per cent of traded oil in the world (if we exclude the United States and the Russia); 70 per cent of world cocoa production; one-third of world coffee production, 50 per cent of palm produce, to mention just a few.

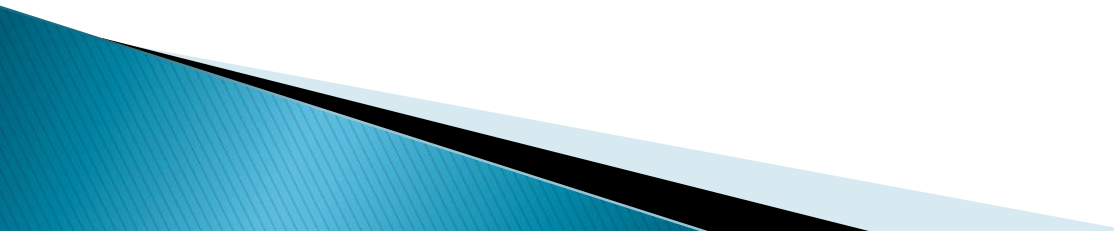
However, despite all efforts made by its leaders, Africa remains the least developed continent. Africa is susceptible to the disastrous effects of natural and endemic diseases of the cruellest type (Aids pandemic and Ebola) and is victim of settler exploitation arising from colonialism, racism and apartheid. Indeed, Africa was directly exploited during the colonial period and for the past two decades;

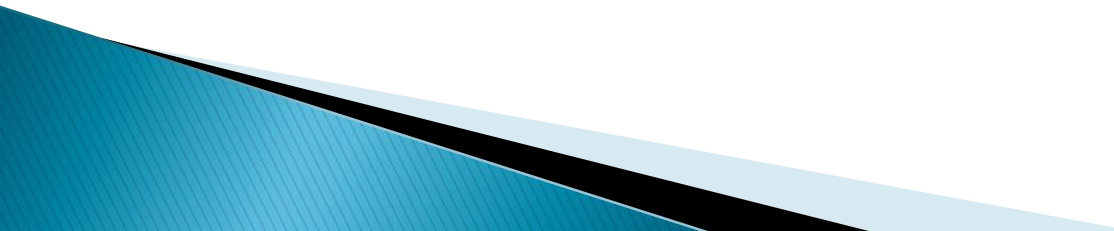


The structural weaknesses of African agriculture is related to low production and productivity, and rudimentary agricultural techniques. This situation obviously gives rise to insufficient agricultural growth, especially of food production, in the face of the rapid population growth and has resulted in serious food shortages and malnutrition in the continent.

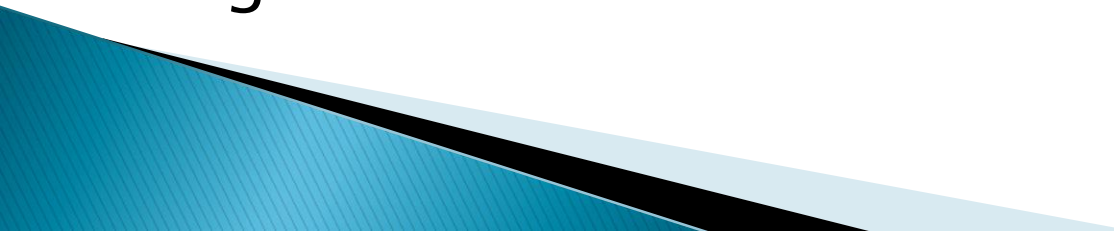


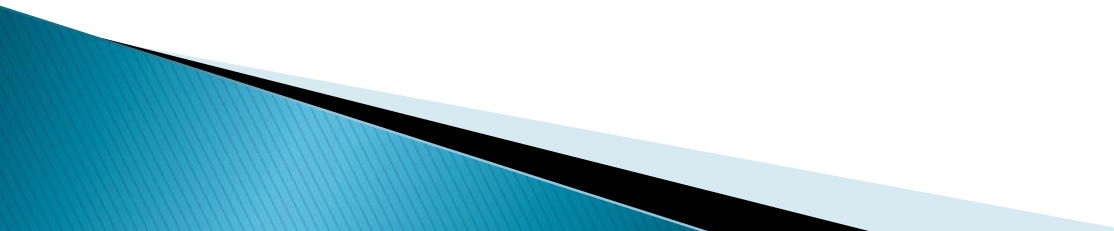
Thus from 1960 to 1980 the average annual growth rates has been no more than 4.8 per cent, a figure which hides divergent realities ranging from 7 per cent growth rate for the oil exporting countries down to 2.9 per cent for the least developed countries.



- ▶ On the basis of these guidelines, the Heads of State and Government, meeting in Lagos at the 2nd Extraordinary Session devoted to Africa's economic problems, decided to adopt the Plan of Action as well as the Final Act of Lagos.
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In doing so, they are conscious of the tremendous effort which will be required by them, individually and collectively, to attain the goals they have set for themselves . To pursue these goals, a number of acts were adopted to facilitate the transformation of the OAU to AU which subsequently gave birth to The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in July 2001 to drive the Lagos Plan of Action objectives, which are meant to put Africa in the path for socioeconomic development. NEPAD therefore is seen as an implementing tool of the Lagos Plan of Action.



- ▶ In 2002 a resolution of the UN General Assembly supported NEPAD as the main channel for UN assistance to Africa. In January 2010, the NEPAD structures were fully integrated into the African Union as the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency. This AU programme therefore stands as a solid foundation to the 2063 Vision..
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Connectedness of the above to the AU Agenda 2063

During the implementation phase of this AU Vision, It will be important to look into the pillars that will drive this continental Agenda and the Risks associated to it...

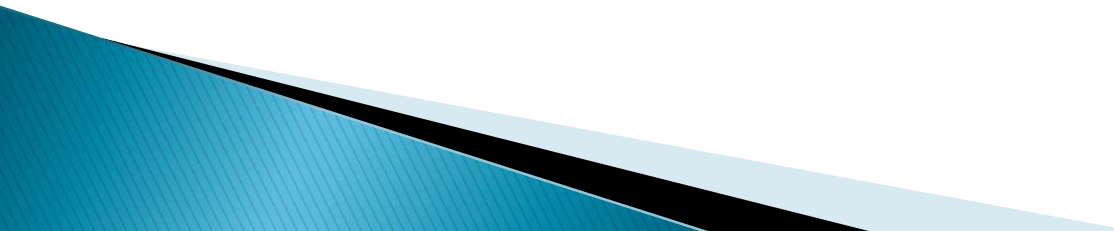
The AU Agenda 2063 is the strengthening of the Lagos Plan of Action to completely take Africa out from the scourge of poverty.

Connectedness of the above to the AU Agenda 2063

The above is possible if the following are taken into consideration”

- ❖ Economic transformation in Africa
 - ❖ Industrial Development
 - ❖ Trade Development
 - ❖ Joint Venture
 - ❖ The Creation of an African bank with a single currently
 - ❖ Financing Regional Cooperation
 - ❖ Selecting lead countries to promotes and drive development projects
 - ❖ Joint Development of Infrastructure
 - ❖ Accelerating Regional Integration among African countries
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Connectedness of the above to the AU Agenda 2063

- ❖ Rationalization of existing intergovernmental organizations
 - ❖ South–South (African and other developing countries) cooperation
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Risks associated to the AU Agenda

2063

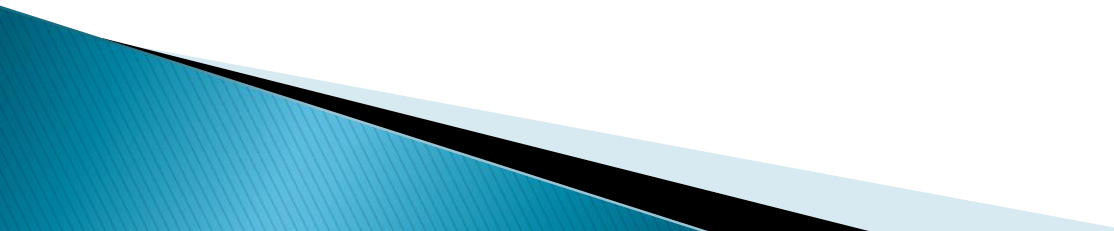
- ▶ exogenous influence in the affairs of the continent is characterised by the consistent illicit outflows of African resources and capital. Internal threats are related to rapid population growth, youth unemployment, conflicts and internal strife and growing inequality and subjective threats such as weak institutions, state fragility, exclusion and poor management of diversity; terrorism and trans-national crime; rent-seeking, corruption and lack of accountability.

Risks associated to the AU Agenda 2063

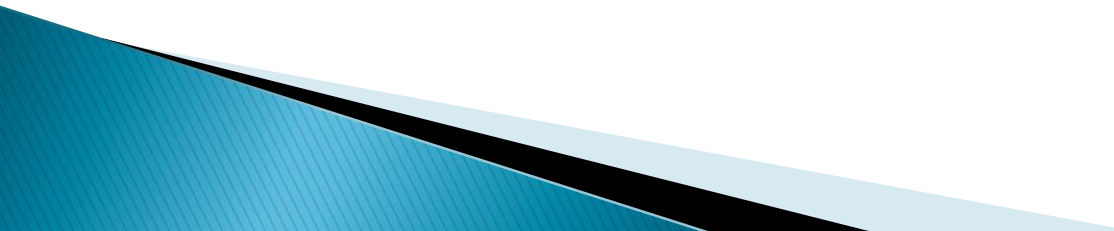
These risks are identified as followed:

- ▶ **Conflict, Instability and Insecurity**
 - ▶ **Organized Crime and the Drugs Trade**
 - ▶ **Failure to Harness the Demographic Dividend**

 - ▶ **Escalation of Africa's Disease Burden**

 - ▶ **Climate Change**
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Risks associated to the AU Agenda 2063

- ▶ Technological change and development of new sources of energy that can reduce the considerable promise of Africa's vast reserves of natural resources
 - ▶ **External Shocks**
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Possible Solutions on these Risks

- ▶ Solutions could though be linked to the above risks and challenges. These could be mitigated and turned into opportunities through political will, collective strategic efforts and effective public sector policies that could change the landscape of Africa's economy in years to come

Possible Solutions on these Risks

- ▶ Building the capacities of ACBF Strategic Thinkers and other related Institutions in Africa is quite important. Same should apply to RECs to find regional solutions to address drivers of fragility .
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