







force on 30 May 2019, to further deepen regional integration, and also note that all African landlocked developing countries have ratified the agreement. The agreement is envisioned to result in reduced tariffs and the elimination of non-tariff barriers and, more importantly, is expected to ease trade facilitation hurdles among the African landlocked developing countries, since it contains provisions on trade facilitation, transit and customs cooperation. Furthermore, African countries that have ratified the agreement have consented to liberalize up to 97 per cent of tariff lines on intra-African trade in 15 years' time.

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38. We further encourage landlocked developing countries to enhance their efforts to integrate into e-commerce. In this regard, we urge international partners to provide capacity-building to assist landlocked developing countries in addressing gaps in legal and regulatory frameworks and developing digital skills.

39. We encourage African landlocked developing countries to engage in all discussions that will shape international rules and regulations of e-commerce and the digital economy.

40. We also call upon the United Nations system, in particular the Economic Commission for Africa, working in collaboration with Afrexim Bank and the African Development Bank to expedite efforts to support the development of digital trade on the African continent to accelerate the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

41. We encourage landlocked developing countries to provide mechanisms to facilitate the deployment of networks and services in non-profitable areas for operators, whether public investment, public-private scheme, or other types of incentives. We call on development partners, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations to provide capacity-building support to landlocked developing countries to improve the business environment and the ability to attract and retain the private sector in information and communications technology.

42. We recognize that investments in renewable energy present massive opportunities for African landlocked developing countries and we encourage landlocked developing countries and transit countries to create an enabling environment for energy investment and infrastructure operations.

43. We call upon the international community, including regional and international development banks, bilateral donors, the United Nations system, the International Renewable Energy Agency and other relevant stakeholders to scale up investments and technical support to promote renewable energy on a wider scale in landlocked developing countries in order to overcome rural-urban and gender disparities and increase overall access to clean cooking fuels and electricity. In particular, landlocked developing countries should be supported to strengthen their capacities for planning, implementing and monitoring renewable energy policies and for developing bankable projects in order for them to take full advantage of climate funding for energy projects. African landlocked developing countries also need support to increase investments in improving energy efficiency.

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55. We call on the international community to support the landlocked developing countries to advance structural economic transformation with a view to building productive capacity, focusing on increasing value addition in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, further integrating those countries into global and regional value chains, encouraging economic and export diversification and promoting formal and decent employment.
56. We underscore the need to establish policies that place emphasis on global value chains and regional value chains, which are key in providing opportunities for firms to absorb new technologies and rapidly expand their economies of scale, access international markets and therefore facilitate structural economic transformation.
57. We urge development partners, including the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and other relevant United Nations entities to provide technical assistance to address the critical success factors for the development of regional value chains and global value chains such as: technological upgrading; creation of an appropriate enabling environment by the States; stable macroeconomic environment, robust financial markets and banking systems; provision of information and communications technology and energy as key enablers of industrialization; and removal of key binding constraints (mainly provision of skills, finance and infrastructure).
58. We invite African landlocked developing countries, with the support of regional economic communities, to address the barriers to international trade in services so as to harness the development potential of their economies, which is key in improving economic performance and can provide a range of traditional and new export opportunities vital for structural transformation.
59. We encourage the use of special economic zones in African landlocked developing countries as a means to address the constraints on their industrialization and development.

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62. We urge developed country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to fully deliver on the goal of 100 billion United States dollars urgently and through to 2025 and emphasize the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges. We welcome the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held in ~~Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt~~ ~~the decision on funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage.~~

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63. We agree on the need to consolidate our positions in the discussions on climate change and ~~for the inclusion of Least Developed Countries under t/~~ s m d r e h e e c h a n g e

to enhancing efforts towards taxation, savings and financial inclusion, with a view to enhancing self-reliance and reducing inequalities. We stress the importance of ensuring conducive policy and regulatory frameworks and transparency, both in the national and global contexts, including for financial institutions, development banks and other relevant agencies in this respect.

69. We reiterate the need to strengthen international cooperation on tax matters and welcome the recent adoption by the General Assembly of the resolution on the promotion of inclusive and effective international tax cooperation. We look forward to the beginning of intergovernmental discussions in New York at United Nations Headquarters on ways to strengthen the inclusiveness and effectiveness of international tax cooperation through the evaluation of additional options, including the possibility of developing an international tax cooperation framework or instrument through a United Nations intergovernmental process, taking into full consideration existing international and multilateral arrangements.

70. We reiterate our call on donor countries to fulfil their official development assistance commitments and provide 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to the developing countries by 2030, with particular focus on landlocked developing countries. We also call upon them to ensure quality and effectiveness of aid, especially through predictability and accountability in alignment with the national priorities of the recipient countries. We call upon the development partners to provide enhanced financial and technical support to the landlocked developing countries, in line with their national priorities, including for impactful projects and capacity-building.

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transfer of stolen assets abroad, recover and return stolen assets, and identify good practices for the return of stolen assets.

76. We are concerned that the external debt stock and debt service of many African landlocked developing countries has drastically increased, resulting in three African landlocked developing countries being in debt distress as of February 2023 and an additional four such African countries at high risk of debt distress. We acknowledge the efforts of the global community to deal with the evolving debt crisis, including the Group of 20

