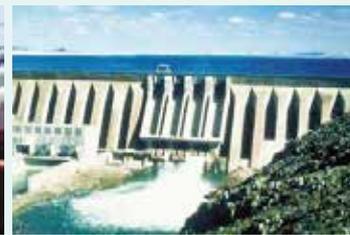




United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa
Office for North Africa

Report on the Sustainable Development Goals for North Africa





United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

**Report on
the Sustainable Development Goals
for North Africa**

By Dr. Abdelkader MOHAMED SALECK¹

December 2013

The views expressed in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the UNECA.

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Summary

While the international community is assessing the implementation of the MDGs, measuring progress towards the achievement of the sustainable development and the gap to be bridged, in particular by taking into account emerging challenges, North Africa is not only asked to contribute, but also impulse, this international dynamics by participating actively to the elaboration of the new vision of the world, in the continuity of the dynamics launched by Rio+20, and in particular within the framework of the Post-2015 Agenda.

The Rio+20 outcome document entitled "*The Future We Want*" highlighted a number of priorities that will guide reflection towards a better world. These priorities include: (i) inclusive economic development; (ii) environment protection and sustainability of natural resources; and (iii) peace and security. Two processes to put this approach into action were launched by the United Nations: the elaboration of the Sustainable Development Goals, and conducting national and regional consultation on the elaboration of post-2015 Agenda. Although implemented in parallel, these two processes are complementary and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development by 2035.

This study falls within the context of the elaboration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), initiated by the Economic Commission for Africa, and conducted through a regional consultative process involving the five sub-regions of Africa. This process aims at allowing African countries contribute to the identification of the SDGs by incorporating thereto their development priorities for the period 2015-2035.

The approach adopted consisted first of assessing the implementation of sustainable development policies in the seven countries of the sub-region of North Africa in order to draw up the development priorities for the future. National consultations currently conducted, in the context of indentifying the post-2015 Agenda, in 5 countries of the sub-region (Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan, Algeria and Egypt) were reviewed and analyzed. Results were used to refine the definition of these priorities elaborated as main goals taking into account on the one hand, recommendations of Rio+20 outcome document and included in the terms of references of the study, and on the other hand the issue of regional integration as a determinant to achieve sustainable development. Goals were then broken down into targets and indicators.

The report highlights, for the sub-region, the importance of some topics that were not taken into account by the MDGs, while being in fact determinant to the achievement of sustainable development; it is in particular: governance, fight against corruption, climate change, green economy, employment, regional disparities, etc.

It leads to the identification of 4 main goals, 36 targets and 54 indicators, that will be combined with the identified priorities and matrix presentations, in a concerted manner, at the scale of other region. Five sub-regional reports, that reflect the contribution of the region of Africa to the global report on

SDGs were presented at the regional consultative workshop for Africa on SDGs, held from October 31st to November 5th 2013 in Addis-Abeba.

Furthermore, the report points out a number of risks which are likely to alter the implementation of the goals, and thus draws up recommendations to avoid failure of this process: (i) strengthening national data production and analysis systems; (ii) building capacities for a better ownership of the SDGs and of the systemic approach underlying them; (iii) organizing training and information campaigns on green economy (approach, principles, tools and benefits of sustainable development; (iv) mobilization of financial resources, including internal ones; (v) coordination between actors.

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List of Acronyms

UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
PAD	Official Development Assistance
AFDB	African Development Bank
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
REC	Regional Economic Community
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
AUC	African Union Commission
DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DIVECO	Economic Diversification Programme
GEF	Global Environment Facility
FDI	Foreign Direct Investments
HDI	Human Development Index
EPI	Environmental Performance Indicator
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
UN	United Nations
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
LDC	Least Developed Countries
GNP	Gross National Product
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
MSP	Mediterranean Solar Plan
IRM	Islamic Republic of Mauritania
Rio+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
CS	Civil Society
AU	African Union
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union

FOREWORD

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference, June 2012) adopted a final document entitled "The Future We Want" which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288.

The definition of concise and limited sustainable development goals (SDGs) that meet the Rio principles and that contribute to a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, is one of the major commitments of Rio +20. The Conference recognized the importance of defining a limited set of SDGs that would build on existing commitments from the major summits on economic, social and environmental issues, while taking into account countries' specific contexts, resources and priorities. The SDGs should also be coherent and integrated in the UN's development program for the period post 2015.

The sixth joint annual meeting of the Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance of the AUC and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the ECA (March 2013) requested the ECA, the AUC and the AfDB to ensure that Africa's priorities are well reflected in the SDGs and that the three institutions translate the continent's common position into objectives, targets and specific indicators. The Ministers also stressed the need to ensure convergence between the post 2015 process and the SDGs.

It is in this context that ECA together with its partners has led the African consultation process on the SDGs, taking into account the outcome of ongoing discussions in relation to the definition of the development program for the period post 2015. This exercise led to the development of five regional reports one continental report that were presented and discussed at the African regional consultation meeting on sustainable development goals (Addis Ababa, November 2013).

This publication incorporates the results of the North African regional consultative meeting and identifies key sustainable development priorities and objectives for the period 2015-2035, in the region. The identified priorities, based on the analysis of economic, social and major environmental challenges in the region, were formulated into 4 overall goals, 36 targets and 54 indicators. These confirmed objectives take into account the results of national consultations, held by some countries in the framework of the post 2015 program and aim primarily to:

- Reduce poverty and social exclusion of vulnerable populations.
- Undertake a structural transformation of the economy and promote a green and inclusive growth.
- Ensure universal access to basic services.
- Build a sustainable peace on a transparent foundation.

This publication also focuses on the major themes that were not addressed by the MDGs but that are vital for the achievement of sustainable development. In particular this concerns the following themes: governance, the fight against corruption, climate change, green economy, employment and the reduction of regional disparities.

Finally, the publication highlights the existence of risks that are likely to affect the implementation of the goals and recommend in particular the strengthening of national production systems and data analysis, capacity building for greater ownership of the sustainable development goals and the underlying systemic approach, the implementation of education campaigns and information on green economy (approach, principles, tools and benefits in terms of sustainable development), mobilization of financial resources, including mechanisms for mobilizing internal resources, and in addition, the necessary coordination between actors.

This publication is a contribution to the work of the High-level Committee on the African Common Position on the development program for the period post 2015 and should be submitted to the African Union summit in January 2014.

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Introduction

The Millennium Declaration adopted by the United Nations summit held in New York in September 2000, marked the birth of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These MDGs, eight in total, were coupled with targets that the countries should achieve by 2015. Economic, social and environmental indicators were defined to measure accomplished progress. During the United Nations' Conference on Sustainable Development, held in September 2002 in Johannesburg, the world leaders reaffirmed their commitment vis-à-vis the Millennium Declaration and adopted an implementation plan which encourages countries to consider sustainable development in the decision-making, particularly taking measures to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments as a means of integrating the environment into the public policies and the budget planning process.

The 2005 World Summit, held in New York, was an opportunity to take stock of progress accomplished towards the achievement of the MDGs, at the third of the way (2000-2015). On this occasion, the international community highlighted the great disparity in accomplished progress, despite some noticeable progress in some countries. While Asia was well on track, thanks to the sustained growth in countries like China and India, most countries in Africa, especially in sub-Saharan region would still suffer from insufficient growth to reach the goals by 2015. In September 2008, a high-level meeting held in New York, convened by the UN Secretary General and President of the General Assembly to discuss, in emergency, in mid-term of the 2015 deadline, the progress made and difficulties encountered in the implementation of the MDGs. This meeting requested stakeholders to take action in order to accelerate the process of achievement of these goals. These processes, considered as slow, led to poor results in some countries, and has raised concerns of the organizers that no African country would achieve all the MDGs if major actions are not taken to accelerate this trend. This meeting resulted in the adoption of a number of commitments and partnerships between developed countries and developing countries to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs.

During a new assessment of progress accomplished towards the achievement of the MDGs at the 2010 Summit, the international community sounded again the alarm by highlighting the need for countries to develop comprehensive and integrated approaches, based on the links between the three economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. The meeting adopted as well a global action plan to achieve the eight goals by their 2015 deadline. It also recognized that although the aid to Africa has increased in recent years, it was not up to the commitments taken. On this occasion, the Northern countries were requested to honor their commitments towards Africa.

The latest report on the progress made by Africa (ECA, February 2013) concluded that with the imminent 2015 deadline, major efforts are needed to accelerate the progress rhythm towards the achievement of the MDGs. Again, highly differentiated progress by regions, countries, goals, indicators and targets were noted with, however, a large number of countries far behind all goals. Issues related to the quality of provided services, particularly in the areas of education and health,

unequal access to these services, poor economic diversification and insufficient integration into the global market, unemployment, particularly among youth, continue to be among the priorities on which special efforts should be done.

In this context, the countries of North Africa have made significant progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the areas of health, access to water or the fight against poverty. Some countries, such as Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia are likely to achieve most of the MDGs by 2015. However, these performances hide significant spatial inequalities. For example, poverty rate exceeds 40% in countries like Sudan and Mauritania, while it is less than 5% in countries like Algeria and Libya¹. Throughout the sub-region of North Africa, it is very likely that employment is the more difficult target of the MDGs to be achieved. In fact, unemployment, structurally high among youth and women, is one of the major challenges for the future of this sub-region. North Africa suffers from the lack of economic structures sufficiently diversified to help raise the added value created at the national level, and thus offer more prospects for employment.

The Summit on Sustainable Development Rio+20 was intended to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress accomplished and the difficulties encountered in the implementation of Agenda 21 (Rio, 92) and the 2002 Johannesburg's action plan, and to identify emerging challenges. This summit led to a declaration entitled "The Future We Want"², which is a roadmap to better take into account sustainable development issues. Two major themes were discussed: (i) the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (ii) the institutional framework for the implementation of sustainable development policies. In this regard, the countries should try, together, to find solutions to the difficulties encountered in achieving certain MDGs. They agreed that significant progress had already been made, particularly in reducing poverty at the global level, access to drinking water, and in raising public awareness of the environmental cause. However, this meeting was an opportunity to point out that the afore-outlined major disparities, across the globe, became more alarming, with nearly 1.4 billion³ persons still living in extreme poverty and more than 15% of the world population suffering from malnutrition. The deficiencies in terms of the implementation of cooperation and partnership policies were also highlighted.

Important agreements were reached at the Rio+20 Summit, among which the need to develop targeted and precise Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), taking into account the priorities, specificities and capacities of each country. The SDGs are intended to be universal goals applicable to all countries, complementary to the MDGs and should be consistent and integrate into the Post 2015 Development Agenda. The development of these SDGs should take into account the strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of the MDGs while integrating the links between the three dimensions of sustainable development.

¹ Analysis of the implications of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (RIO+20) for North Africa, ECA-NA, 2012.

² The Rio+20 outcome document, June 2012.

³ Note of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. June 2012.

To implement this commitment for the elaboration of the MDGs, the UN General Assembly decided, at its 67th session, to create an Open-ended Working Group on sustainable development goals. Four countries in the sub-region are part of this working group, namely Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. This group, which took office in March 2013, will submit its proposals to the 68th session of the General Assembly in 2013.

In this context, the Economic Commission for Africa launched a regional consultative process to enable African countries to participate in the global process to define MDGs. This process will take into account the development priorities of each sub-region. Five sub-regional reports will be developed in a coordinated manner with the national and sub-regional institutions. Their synthesis will lead to a regional report which will contain the suggested sustainable development goals for Africa.

This study is based on a broad literature review of national and sub-regional available documents. Much of the documentation has been provided by the sub-regional institutions, including UNECA (Office for North Africa), but also AMU, UNDP and AFDB.

This report is considered as the contribution of North Africa to this process. It will be structured around the following chapters, in the light of the terms of reference :

- Chapter 1. Identification of the sustainable development priorities for the sub-region
- Chapter 2. Analyzing and ensuring consistency of the priorities by area and topics
- Chapter 3. Goals, Targets and Indicators of Sustainable Development
- Chapter 4. Conclusions and recommendations for the ownership and operationalization of the Sustainable Development Goals in the sub-region.

I. Identification of priorities for the sustainable development in the sub-region

Most of the countries of the sub-region of North Africa grant today an important consideration to the goals and principles of sustainable development in their development policies and programs. This was reflected by international commitments (signature and ratification of protocols and conventions on sustainable development), institutional reforms (establishment of dedicated ministries and agencies) and regulatory reforms (adaptation of the legislations to the environmental requirements) and through the development and implementation of targeted strategies, programs and projects. Progress made is very differentiated according to political, economic and social constraints of each country, on the one hand, and to the degree of ownership of the issues by all actors and the political will on the other hand.

Identification of priorities for sustainable development has been made through the analysis of the associated challenges in the countries of the sub-region. This analysis took into account the progress accomplished by these countries since the Rio Summit and the constraints and difficulties encountered.

Priorities are highlighted according to the pillars of sustainable development, which have articulated implemented policies and programs. They are also identified in relation to some emerging challenges that the countries of the sub-region are facing today. A brief description of the economic, social and environmental context is given to support the analysis.

1.1. ECONOMIC PRIORITIES

1.1.1. Brief description of the economic context

Box 1. Description of the economic context of the sub-region

The current sub-regional economic dynamics is triggered by some key sectors such as agriculture, mining, hydrocarbons or tourism. An average economic growth rate of 5% was regularly achieved between 2000 and 2012 with, however, a significant decrease in 2011, an almost zero growth (0.5%) and a slight increase in 2012 (2.3%). Most of the countries of the sub-region suffered a huge deficit of their current account, in particular with trade deficits caused by the slowdown of the production and the decrease of the exportations of goods and services, combined with a significant fall in foreign direct investments (FDI). After a decrease of these FDIs in 2011 (of almost 42%), they raised in 2012 thanks to the financing of major growth-generating projects, previously interrupted by the political situation, prevailing mainly in Egypt and Libya. Moreover, there still exists big disparities between countries, in terms of economic performance, implementation of economic and political reforms, and liberalization. Delays identified in some countries, such as Mauritania and Sudan, in terms of developing infrastructures, hamper the economic development of the country itself and of the whole sub-region. Table 1 presents the major economic indicators of the sub-region.

1.1.2. Major Constraints

The implemented development policies and strategies in the sub-region are promoting economic growth and good governance. These objectives are structured around the development of some major advantages of the sub-region, mainly: the great diversity of natural resources, the existence of a strong physical infrastructure, geographical and cultural homogeneous spaces, and important human resources. The analysis of the implementation of these policies highlights a number of key findings that hamper economic policies. These constraints are hereinafter discussed so as to identify priorities for future action.

1.1.2.1-Economies vulnerable to climate risks

Climate risks lead to a continuous degradation of plant cover and therefore a loss of soil productivity, making economies largely dependent on particularly vulnerable natural resources. These factors contribute to the degradation of the agricultural sector and, thereby, to food insecurity, development of precarious conditions and the dependence of countries of the region to the commodities world market. Yet the agricultural sector plays an important role in the economies of these countries (30% of GDP in Sudan, and an average of 10% of GDP in other countries except for Libya and Mauritania, where it represents less than 4%). Agricultural development is inseparable from the management of water resources (over 80% of this resource are dedicated to it in the sub-region) and the related choices made by public policies. Moreover, a strong dependence of the countries of the sub-region to world imports is observed, estimated in average at 59% for the sub-region (in 2012, see Table 1), which may lead to catastrophic food insecurity (stock shortage, uncontrolled global prices ...).

North Africa has the highest water deficit in the world (water availability below 1,000 m³/year), a desertification which affects about 85% of the land, which is increasingly threatened by the erosion and salinisation, a predominantly rainfed agriculture and very sensitive to climate variations, and an increasingly important concentration of the population and economic activities in coastal areas. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), North Africa is the world's second most vulnerable area to climate risks. Some cities, especially the coastal ones, are vulnerable to natural disasters, namely Tunis, Casablanca, Cairo and Nouakchott.

Policy reforms and significant investments should be made to allow the sub-region adapt to climate change and increase the resilience of medias and ecosystems to natural disasters.

1.1.2.2-Economies highly dependent to natural resources

The economies of the countries of the sub-region are mostly dependent to the exploitation of natural resources and are poorly diversified. As illustration, we can take the examples of Algeria and Mauritania. For Algeria, the hydrocarbon sector accounts for 98% of total exports⁴ and 70% of budget revenues, be it the amount of \$71.4 billion. Between 2011 and 2012, the country showed a

⁴ For 2011.

very low level of non-oil exports, of a value of \$500 million. The report of the Central Bank of Algeria (2012) notes the weak external competitiveness of the national economy, still dependent to imports, particularly those of goods, which rose by 3.5%, be it the amount of \$23.9 billion, between 2011 and 2012. In terms of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), they are also unsatisfactory as they strongly decreased by 42%, from \$2.57 billion in 2011 to \$1.48 billion in 2012. For Mauritania, exports remain highly concentrated in a very limited number of products (minerals, fish, live cattle at a lesser extent and hydrocarbons), thus, increasing the vulnerability of the economy. Primary and extractive activities in 2012 accounted for about 45% of GDP. Diversification of trade with neighbors is underdeveloped: Mauritania has not enough trade with Sub-Saharan Africa (as does Senegal, for example) or with the Arab countries (as does Egypt, for example). The FDI volume has increased between 2011 and 2012, from \$60 million to more than \$80 million, which is not insignificant in percentage of GDP, but remains well below the performance recorded in 2005 with \$814 million.

North Africa is heavily dependent to exports of primary products, and, thus, it is hardly able to create sustainable jobs. Although the industrial development is the most powerful in the African region, it remains limited and seems, generally, to undergo the effects of a difficult global economic conditions. Indeed, the contribution of manufacturing industry to GDP of the sub-region, estimated at about 13%⁵, has poorly developed over the last twenty years. This figure also hides disparities between countries: Mauritania, Sudan, Libya and Algeria show performance between 6 and 8%, while in Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia, the average is about 17%⁶. Major efforts are to be made by countries to diversify production systems and create primary products processing industries. For this reason, countries of the sub-region have real opportunities, given the high potential of raw materials in the region and the possibility of industrialization and creation of an added value from these natural resources. The development of renewable energies, based on proactive policies, such as those conducted in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt (and more recently in Mauritania), illustrates the valorization of the significant potential of this region. The agricultural potential of Sudan and the mining one of Mauritania can enhance the creation of significant values.

To create conditions enabling inclusive growth conditions, the countries of the sub-region should move towards a transformation economy based on sectors with high growth potential and decent jobs creation, but also find a targeted diversification of economy to meet current and future needs, with, in particular, a greater integration of new technologies in order to modernize the production process.

Finally, it is necessary to accelerate the rhythm of exports diversification (which witnessed a strong recovery in 2012) and boost investments by creating a favorable business climate, especially for the private sector. Currently, the investment rate in the sub-region, around 15% of GDP, is below those achieved by some emerging countries, particularly in Southeast Asia where it exceeds 30% of GDP.

⁵ Regional Integration and the development of intra-regional trade in North Africa : What potential for trade. ECA 2013.

⁶ Economic Report on Africa, 2013. ECA and AU.

1.1.2.3-Insufficient economic growth to generate jobs

Economic growth in the sub-region is still insufficient to create jobs. After a quick increase between 1960 and 1980, there was a stagnation of growth and employment in most countries of North Africa. Between 1980 and 2012, the growth per capita was only on an average of 0.5% per year in the sub-region.

Growth forecasts for 2013 are expected to be around 4.2%, and accelerate to 4.6% in 2014, as the political environment gets back to normal and the economic activity recovers⁷. The economy of Libya, which has undergone significant fluctuations, is expected to regain its pre-crisis levels. Sudan, Mauritania and Algeria should, in turn, benefit from better agricultural crops.

Economic growth and employment generation are limited by the poor results of national production, particularly in terms of creating added values, but also by the insufficient or non-existent strategies of redistribution of wealth (especially those deriving from natural resources). Given the observations, it now seems compulsory for the governments of the sub-region to reform their economic policies in order to promote more inclusive growth which will create jobs and generate incomes and which will allow the region to gain a sustainable political stability.

The high youth unemployment remains a concern for the sub-region. To reduce the unemployment rate among all age groups, it is necessary to adopt structural reforms of the labor market by focusing on a proactive policy of job creation for young people and women, restoring confidence in the market, inclusive growth, building-up external reserves and maintaining political and social stability.

⁷ World Economic Outlook. IMF, April 2013.

Table 1. Presentation of the main economic data (ECA-NA, 2013)

	GDP (%)		Inflation (%)		Foreign exchange Reserves (Billion USD) – Nb of months of Importation	Budget Deficit (%GDP) - 2012	FDI – Ranking 2013 (2012)	Barriers to investment	Dependence on cereal imports (2012) %	Subsidies to basic commodities -2012 %GDP	Dependence on natural resources	Prospects / Reforms
	2012	2013	2012	2013								
Algeria	2,5	4	8,9	8	190 39	4	152 (150)	Transfer of ownership/ Payment of taxes / connection to electricity	30	1,1	Oil and Gas (72% of budget revenues)	Diversification (agriculture – food processing, industry and Tourism, construction) Inclusive growth
Egypt	2	3	8	7,5	15 3	11	109 (110)	Building permit / completion of contracts	52	10	Average dependence (gas, agriculture, Tourism)	FDI / improvement of investment climate, Recovery of the currency Revival of growth
Libya	106	7,5	8	5	Undetermined	Null	Non-ranked	Weak openness to foreign investments	78	-----	Strong Gas and oil (70% of the GDP)	Diversification of the economy (Agriculture, industry...) Reinforcement of infrastructures and private sector
Morocco	2,4	4,3	2,1	2,6	12 3,5	6					Average	Upgrading and

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Mauritania	4,2	5,3	2,1	6	0,6	3,6	6,1%	167 (164)	Transfer of ownership	40	3	dependence (services, agriculture, tourism)	expansion of basic services Inclusive growth
									Taxes /Loans / Business creation / Insolvency	90	4,6	Strong dependence on Mines (Iron, copper and gold) – 27% GDP and 52% of budget revenues	FDI / Improvement of investment climate Inclusive growth
Sudan	2	1,8	20	15	-----		5	143 (140)	Obtaining loans / investors protection/ delivery of building permits	60	-----	Average (agriculture, cattle farming)	Diversification of the economy Upgrading of agriculture sector FDI Bridge regional disparities Inclusive growth
Tunisia	3,6	4,5	4,4	5,6	0,52	3,5	4,8	50 (45)	Investment enabling environment	64	5	Low (services, agriculture, tourism, ICT...)	Recovery of an inclusive growth Containing inflation Reinforcement of investment Promotion

1.2. SOCIAL PRIORITIES

1.2.1- Brief description of the social context

Box 2. Description of the social context of the sub-region

Unemployment rate was in average 12% during the last two decades, which is a threshold rarely reached in the world. In 2012, unemployment rate in Egypt, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia ranged from 10 to 20%, while it averaged 32% in Mauritania. Moreover, there are significant disparities between social groups and between geographical areas in the same country (provinces, rural vs. urban;...). All countries show disparities between provinces, but also different stages of development between urban and rural areas, and gender inequalities. This upward trend is likely to persist in 2013, despite forecasts of growth recovery for the sub-region. This spectacular rate arises from youth unemployment which is still high. Indeed, 90% of the unemployed are aged between 15 to 29, and unemployment rate of this category was estimated at 28% in 2012. As comparison, the global unemployment rate for young people of the same age category was around 13% in 2012. Furthermore, unemployment affects in particular young graduates. The recent FAO report on the status of food insecurity in the world (FAO, 2012) shows that North Africa has about 4 million people suffering from malnutrition, be it 2.7% of total population. This number remained constant since 2007, while in sub-Saharan Africa it raised from 216 to 234 million malnourished people, which is 26.8% of the population of this region. In developed countries, the percentage of malnourished people raised from 1.3% in 2007 to 1.4% in 2012. This FAO report highlights an increase in obesity in all countries of the sub-region, with rates ranging from 10 to 20% in Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan and Algeria, and between 20 to 30% in Tunisia, and more than 30% in Egypt and Libya. Table 2 presents the major social indicators of the sub-region.

1.2.2- Major Constraints

Despite a particularly difficult global economic environment, governments of the countries of the sub-region are now trying to meet the expectations of their peoples, which were vigorously expressed in 2011 with the Arab Spring. These expectations pertain to the improvement of democratic processes and the reduction of inequality and unemployment, especially among young people. Faced with these challenges, major social priorities can now be put forward to ease social tensions and improve the living conditions of peoples in this sub-region within the framework of sustainable development.

The analysis of the implemented social policies resulted in the following observations.

1.2.2.1- A troubling Unemployment rate, particularly among young people

The high unemployment rate is one of the major obstacles to the development of North Africa. It affects especially youth, women and graduates of higher education. Despite huge investments, the education system proposed by the countries of the sub-region does not provide the skills needed by the labor market. This hinders the growth and sustainable employment, and favors the development of the informal market where security nets remain weak and most workers have no social protection.

In its 2012 report, the ILO⁸ points out that employment, in this sub-region, is characterized by the increase in "vulnerable employment" rooted in the informal sector. These jobs are generally governed by informal arrangements that deprive workers from social protection and are characterized by low pay and poor working conditions which may adversely affect the fundamental rights of workers.

The progress made by the sub-region in terms of progress towards achieving the MDGs, particularly in health and education, have resulted in such a longer life expectancy, with a medium and long-term sensitive increase of the elderly population, resulting in a significant additional medical and social support of the countries in the sub-region.

Population growth in the sub-region in recent decades has resulted in a significant increase of the young population (the age group 15-29 years increased by 50% over the past twenty years), whose integration in the labor market is difficult in the current economic climate. This situation leads to an increasing number of unemployed youth, and thus creates real risks of social destabilization in the sub-region and increases marginalization of youth (petty crimes, illegal immigration, religious extremism, etc.).

To address this issue, deep-reaching reforms of the education system are needed to adapt to the current labor market (job-training adequacy). Social and regional inequalities should also be taken into account for better prospects for young people, and to provide a sustainable social protection system, able to consider the aging trend of the population.

1.2.2.2- Threatening food insecurity

For their supply of food commodities, countries of North Africa are heavily dependent on cereal imports and climate risks. This dependency makes them vulnerable to shocks related to food price variations on the international market, considering that these prices are constantly rising for over ten years now. In this context, food security is a priority strategic issue and an important factor of social, political and budgetary stability.

The ministerial committee specialized in food security at the AMU emphasized the need to strengthen the commercial exchange of agricultural products in order to achieve food security in the

⁸ Report on the situation of employment worldwide. ILO, 2012.

sub-region. It also highlighted the need to address the challenges in certain areas and topics closely related to food security, mainly: sustainable water management, establishing a common policy for stabilizing food prices and strengthening production systems.

Agriculture has great potential in terms of poverty reduction and food security. Major efforts in this area would be an important inclusive economic growth lever, particularly in countries where poverty is widespread in rural areas (Mauritania, Sudan and Egypt).

Addressing this issue requires on the one hand, implementing integrated approaches to natural resources management (water, soil, vegetation...) and, on the other hand, strengthening the resilience of production systems and populations vulnerable to climate change.

Control policies of production factors (primary and processing/ industrial development) should accompany this orientation: water saving, access to clean and sustainable energy, technology transfer, producers' capacity building.

1.2.2.3-Important regional and gender disparities

The countries of North Africa have made significant progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the areas of health, access to water or the fight against poverty. Some countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) are likely to achieve many of the MDGs by 2015. However, these performances hide significant regional disparities (poverty rate ranging from 42% in Mauritania to less than 1% in Algeria). The HDI ranges from 0.795 for Libya (64th in the world) to 0.402 for Sudan (169th).

Disparities exist between countries but also between regions within the same country. They relate to economic development, food insecurity, access to basic health services, water, energy, and sanitation. Discrimination against women in terms of wages, employment and participation in decision-making are major concerns brought by civil society and regularly highlighted by the technical and financial partners of the country. The situation of women in the countries of the sub-region is worrying since the overall unemployment rate for the region in 2012 was about 18% for women against 9% for men. Unemployment rate for young women was estimated at around 42% (in 2012), and the number of active women at 28%, which is very low compared to other regions in the world. However, progress has been made in the representation of women in Parliament. In 2011, this proportion was seven times higher than in 1990, thanks to factors like measures of positive discrimination such as legal frameworks guaranteeing seats for women in the political sphere.

In addition, the sub-region is under increasing pressure due to urbanization. Coastal cities are under an unprecedented human impact with disastrous consequences in the social (poverty), economic (unemployment) and environmental (pollution) plan. Given this poorly controlled urbanization, the access to basic social services presents considerable challenges for governments. Meeting the demands for water and energy will be particularly difficult in a region where these two resources remain under strong constraints. The rapid urban population growth, particularly in coastal regions, increases the potential risks related to natural disasters and complicates the process of adaptation to climate change in these areas. Anticipating the future, increasing funding and adapting to climate change, would enable countries of the sub-region to better meet the challenges.

Table 2. Major social indicators (UNECA, 2013)

	Unemployment rate - 2012 (%)	Poverty rate - 2012(%)	HDI – 2012 - ranking	Health spending (% GDP) - 2010	Education spending- (% GDP) - 2012
Algeria	10	5	0.713 (high) – 93 rd	3.6	4.6
Egypt	13	26	0.662 (average) – 130 th	2.4	3.8
Libya	30	< 1	0.769 (high) – 64 th	1.9	ND
Morocco	9	28	0.591 (average) – 130 th	1.7	5.4
Mauritania	31,2	42	0.467 (low) -	1.6	4.4
Sudan	13	46,6	0.414 (low) – 171 st	1,3	6
Tunisia	16	18	0,712 (high) – 94 th	3	6.3

1.3. ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES

1.2.3- Brief description of the environmental context

Box 3. Description of the environmental context of the sub-region (UNECA, 2013)

The seriousness and urgency of the environmental issues and the absence of coordination at the sub-regional level lead to limited performances, particularly highly differentiated by countries, in terms of environmental governance. The Environmental Performance Index (EPI, 2012) established by the World Economic Forum and the University of Yale, ranks Egypt at the 60th position, Algeria 86th, Tunisia 99th, Sudan 104th, and Morocco 105th, while Libya is ranked at the 123rd over 132 ranked countries. Mauritania is out of this recent ranking because the lack of data. However, this country has shown weak performances in terms of environmental governance, since it was ranked 161st out of 163 countries ranked (EPI, 2010). All countries, except Libya and Sudan, have signed and ratified the Kyoto protocol, and have already prepared and submitted their first and second country communications.

North Africa has the highest water deficit in the world (water availability below 1,000 m³/year), a desertification that affects about 85% of the land, and is increasingly threatened by the erosion and salinisation, a predominantly rainfed agriculture, very sensitive to climatic variations, and an increasingly important concentration of the population and economic activities in coastal areas. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), North Africa is the world's second most vulnerable area to climate risks.

The cost of environmental degradation ranges from 2 to 5% of GDP for the four countries: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, while it is estimated at 17% of GDP for Mauritania. On the basis of this criterion, Tunisia shows the best performances. Even if the estimated cost in Mauritania is higher than those of other countries, it remains in the same level as the rates observed in the countries of the Sahel, such as Mali, Senegal or Burkina Faso. Table 3 presents the major environmental indicators for the sub-region.

1.2.4- The major constraints

Countries of the sub-region share some similar environmental issues: desertification, water scarcity, land, forests and pasturage degradation, heavy pressures on the marine environment, climate change and the industrial, urban and agricultural pollution. Taking into account all these issues across the sub-region is at present insufficient, but remains a major challenge to regional integration. To reflect the importance of these issues and overcome the environmental challenges, all countries implement appropriate strategies and policies in accordance with national priorities and provisions of the various major multilateral agreements and instruments on environment to which they are parties. The review of these policies highlights a number of major constraints that countries will rise to curb the current trends and make the preservation of the environment and natural resources serve the sustainable development of the sub-region.

1.3.2.1- Natural resources in continuous degradation

North Africa consists of coastal plains, mountain ranges and plateaus. Desert formations account for most of the surface of the region. The region is of semi-arid to arid dominance, subject to a climate resulting from maritime influences in the North, the East (Mediterranean Sea) the West (Atlantic Ocean) and Saharan in the South. Arable land is reduced; their surfaces are between 1% (Libya) and 18.2% (Tunisia) of the national territories. Overall, North Africa receives only 7% of the total precipitations of the African continent, with an uneven distribution between countries and within countries⁹.

The sub-region is bearing the brunt of desertification consequences (85% of the land), which destroyed the biological potential of land, resulting in water scarcity, decline of land productivity, loss of biodiversity and degradation of quality of life. Arable land (15% of the total surface of the sub-region) is threatened by erosion, salinisation and unsustainable farming practices. Although these issues are shared in a common geographical space and an under-construction economic zone, national policies to fight against these phenomena are variously undertaken by governments, without specific coordination. Degradation of soils and forests compromises the efforts in terms of food security and threatens the life conditions of future generations. It also has a direct impact on internal and external migration, which can worsen the social pressures on land.

Except for Mauritania (Senegal River), Sudan (Nile) and Egypt (Nile), North Africa has no permanent rivers of great importance. Consequently, the choice of governments was focused on irrigation from aquifers and hydraulic structures. However, issues relating to the sustainability of the aquifers, often cross-border, the growing demand of countries and potential conflicts due to the uncoordinated resource exploitation, remain significant concerns to be always considered in any sub-regional strategy for water resources mobilization.

⁹ EU, 2012. Greater Green Wall: Initiatives and programmes in North Africa. SSO-FAO Convention.

Oases, economic pillars of the sub-region and model of sustainable development, built by man over the centuries, are now at risk due to climate change, including its impact on the availability of water resources, geographic isolation, difficulties of access to marketing channels or the evolution of consumption patterns towards manufactured products at the expense of local products. In addition, the region has a significant biodiversity for World Heritage and for the balance of ecosystems. According to UNEP¹⁰, eight hundred and seventy plant species are classified as rare, threatened or endemic in North Africa. Finally, the important fishery resources in countries, like Mauritania and Morocco, are experiencing overfishing in some fisheries, especially octopus and sardinella.

To reverse this tendency, it is important to adopt new modes of sustainable production and consumption as well as integrated management of natural resources effectively involving all local actors.

1.3.2.2-Energy insecurity and lightly exploited renewable energy potential

Energy demand of all countries has steadily increased (an average of 6-8% per year) and needs remain covered by subsidized fossil fuels. The exhaustion of fossil energy sources, and the implications of the sustainable development agenda in reducing carbon emissions¹¹, put the energy issue at the center of environmental challenges in the sub-region.

Yet the sub-region has a significant potential in renewable energy, able to cover almost all of the demand in the medium and long term, but remains poorly exploited. To ensure energy security, countries of the sub-region have set goal to significantly increase the share of renewable energy (RE) in their energy mix. Some countries, such as Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and most recently Mauritania, have made substantial investments¹².

The exploitation of this RE potential faces financing and profitability difficulties. The challenge relates to the energy efficiency, considered as the most profitable reserve in terms of developing energy services.

Meeting this challenge involves the mobilization of the necessary funding and the promotion of technology transfer, as well as strengthening exchange networks and partnerships between member countries, and the optimization of cross-border interconnection infrastructures.

In this context, a series of actions have to be taken throughout the sub-region: (i) progressive harmonization of legislations and network codes; (ii) elaboration of a regional strategy for capacity building and knowledge transfer; (iii) elaboration of a sub-regional strategy for RE to allow the emergence of regional industrial platforms; (iv) setting-up regional federative programmes, in particular in the field of scientific research dedicated to renewable energies.

¹⁰ UNEP, 2013. Biodiversity lost due to the extension of cultivated lands in tropical countries

¹¹ CO₂ Average emissions for the sub-region, calculated over the past 30 years, are of about 2.1 metric tones/per capita. They are highly differentiated by country and range from a maximum of 8 MT/per capita for Libya to 0.2 MT/per capita for Sudan/

¹² Renewable energy sector in North Africa. ECA-NA, 2012

1.3.2.3- Undercontrolled climate change

Today, the sub-region is considered among the most vulnerable areas to climate change. On the short term, it may affect the lives of people in this sub-region (productivity losses, declining farm incomes, migration ...) and contribute to natural resources degradation. Increasingly important greenhouse gas emissions, alterations in rainfall and temperature, the risk of rising sea level (risks in Mauritania, Tunisia, Egypt and Morocco) and increase in extreme weather events are all visible signs and challenges for this region. The investments to be made to reverse or stop this trend, by adapting or mitigating climate change effect will be particularly heavy and will burden States if emergency policies are not taken. A sustainable solution requires an integrated management of natural resources (soil, water, forests) under coherent and concerted policies at the sub-regional level, and a regional and international partnership focused on adaptation and mitigation measures of climate change effects.

For example, the MAU has already made strategic political choices incorporating the vulnerability of the sub-region and its need to adapt to climate change. It is about: (i) initiating large-scale awareness and education programs for populations on the effects of Climate Change and, the use of technical means available to enhance adaptation; (ii) developing projects to transfer technologies to the countries of the sub-region to adapt their behavior to the new context of the climate of the region. Creating financial mechanisms to promote transfer of technologies (a cooperation Action MAU/Japan has been identified in this area); (iii) Establishing sustainable structures in the sub-region, able to sustainably manage climate change issues (in this context, the MAU presented the project to create the Maghreb Drought Early Warning Observatory (OMAS).

Tableau 3. Les principaux indicateurs environnementaux par pays. (UNECA 2013)

	Annual average Deforestation (2000-2010)	Preserved areas (% national territory – 2010)	Renewable fresh water Resources (m ³ / per capita - 2010) internal total	Access to drinking water (% population)- 2010	Access to sanitation (% population)- 2010	Urban Population annual growth (1990-2011)	CO ₂ Emissions (millions of metric tonnes)- 2010	Use of energy (Kg.oil.eq/per capita) – 2010	Electricity Production (billion KW/hour)- 2010
Algeria	0.57	6.2	313 < 1000	83	95	2.6	121.3	1,138	45.6
Egypt	-1.73	6.1	22 1000	99	95	2.1	216.1	903	146.8
Libya	0.00	0.1	109 < 1000	ND	97	1.3	62.9	3	31.6
Morocco	-0.23	1.5	899 1000	83	70	1.6	48.8	517	22.3
Mauritania	2.66	1.1	153 3000	62	26	3	2.1	ND	ND
Sudan	0.08	4.2	672 2000	58	26	2.6	14.3	371	7.8
Tunisia	-1.86	1.3	393 1000	94	85	1.5	25.2	913	16.1

1.4. CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

1.4.1- Balanced consideration of the three dimensions of sustainable development

The weak holistic integration of the three pillars has significant impacts on the efficiency of policies to fight against poverty. The assessment of ecosystems by functions, goods, and services, as those implemented for special ecosystems (wetlands) in Mauritania¹³, show the existence of a direct relation between the health of the environment (of ecosystems) and the economic and social well-being, and finds that efforts aiming at reducing poverty and improving human well-being will be vain if no action is taken to stop environment degradation. In substance, goods and services that stimulate the economies and underlie social systems come in major part from healthy environments. Such methods allow suggesting options for governance by putting the sustainable management of ecosystems at the service of local and national development.

To boost the sustainable development, it is worth bearing in mind the fundamental principle that the environmental sustainability, economic development and social well-being are complementary goals. In fact, the importance of the environment for the two other pillars of the sustainable development is not yet sufficiently recognized in the decision making process. Five principles should be taken into account to make succeed this holistic vision: (i) a political will in all countries; (ii) the definition of a coherent action framework with a cross-cutting approach; (iii) strengthening monitoring and implementation capacities; (iv) reducing institutional and legal barriers; and (v) establishing a framework for the sustainable assessment of results and efforts made to ensure consistency of policies.

To achieve the aforementioned targets, a number of recommendations can be put forward:

- Developing information systems and articulated governance indicators combining the three dimensions;
- Promoting the integrated assessment of ecosystems;
- Involving all social, economic and environmental actors in the decision making process made at the sub-regional, national and local levels:
- Develop guides for the integration of the three dimensions in the various sectors of activity;
- Promoting socially responsible and environmentally-friendly investments;
- Elaborating a common benchmarking for the seven countries of the sub-region;
- Promoting synergies between the multilateral conventions on environment and identifying operational elements to guide the establishment of these synergies;
- Establishing a more strong relation between the establishment of sustainable development policies and the process of budget planning.

¹³ Integrated assessment of productive Wet Ecosystem Mauritania. APE, UNDP-UNEP, 2010.

1.4.2- Promoting green economy

The countries of the sub-region became aware of the ineffectiveness of current growth strategies. They mostly revealed their will to commit themselves to promoting a green and inclusive growth. However, they are confident that the trend can be reversed only at the expense of significant investments and profound social changes. This transition implies that the economic analysis includes, beyond the GDP, the natural capital and ecosystem services in the accounting of national wealth.

The real challenge for the countries of the sub-region is to transform the green economy into a lever of sustainable growth and development. The implementation of this vision presupposes: (i) integrating the principles of inclusive green growth in the existing development policies, programs and plans, at the sectoral, national and local levels, (ii) involving all civil society actors and the private sector with a major objective of poverty eradication and food security. Efforts have to be made at the local, national and sub-regional levels; (iii) inviting developed countries and the international community to honor commitments on financing, capacity building, transfer and development of environmentally friendly technologies, respectful of people and their environment; (iv) strengthening existing partnerships and fostering new technical, financial, global, regional and sub-regional collaborations, for the effective integration of a green and inclusive growth in development patterns, and (v) adapting institutional frameworks for better consideration of all emerging challenges (Green Growth, sustainable consumption and production behaviors, climate change).

The success of this transition also requires that the sub-region achieves smart investments, to avoid any additional costs in the future. These include investments in infrastructure, energy and sustainable urban areas, better management of natural resources, including land, forests and minerals, strengthening economic, social and physical resilience, including resilience to natural disasters and climate change, and enhancing food security.

1.4.3- Mobilizing financial resources

Despite progress achieved at the economic and social level, the countries of the sub-region still face various challenges, such as improvement of productivity, diversification of economies, development and acceleration of exportations, improvement of the education quality and its consistency with the needs of the production section, and the development of social services and securing their financing need. However, one of the major constraints is the insufficiency of the mechanism to finance the economic activity.

Some high potential sectors are facing difficulties to develop due the lack of sufficient and appropriate financing. It is in particular the case of renewable energies.

In most countries of the sub-region, funding priorities are often projected in terms of mobilizing internal financing. Recourse to external financing, in addition to internal sources, focuses more on private resources from the rest of the world than on official development assistance. The contribution of the latter to the financing of the sub-region is estimated only at 4%¹⁴. The capacity to

¹⁴ECA-NA, 2011. Mobilizing resources to finance development in North Africa.

mobilize domestic financing will depend on the degree of involvement of all actors in development, participation of the banking system, and the viability of credit instruments set out.

Aware of the importance of the global economic crisis and the emerging challenges currently faced by developing countries, North Africa should explore innovative ways of funding. The private sector in the sub-region could be a key player in financing sustainable development in the region. Therefore, this actor must become more involved in the development of tools and opportunities available on national and international scales. Public-private partnerships can play an essential role, particularly by contributing to mobilizing clean technologies.

The strategy of finance mobilization will also explore the potential of sub-regional cooperation, yet under-exploited, particularly through the adoption of sub-regional, sectoral policies. A win-win partnership within countries in the sub-region can be sought, including the involvement of countries with substantial liquidity, such as Algeria and Libya. The counterpart of the recipient countries can be in the form of economic advantages in terms of investment or import or transfer of skills and technology. Accordingly, we can imagine the establishment of mutual funds from internal resources of the sub-region, and that can finance sound practices in sustainable development, identified in the different countries.

South-South cooperation, especially between North Africa and the Arab countries, should also be sought. Indeed, geographical and cultural proximity between North Africa and the Middle East, is a definite asset for a successful financial cooperation.

It is also possible to explore the financing tools available through the three major conventions on environment, with the specific nature of the convention on the fight against desertification, poor one of the three, which requires specific reinforcement up to the challenges that arise in this sub-region three-quarters desert. In this respect, it should be acknowledged that, so far, the countries of the sub-region have shown limited capacity to operate this type of leverage. Projects and initiatives funded through mechanisms such as the Adaptation Fund or the CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) remain restricted to certain countries (mainly Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia). Countries such as Mauritania, Sudan and Libya remain outside this process.

For matters related to climate change, we can recall the creation of a green climate fund to be housed in South Korea and on which is to take office in the second half of 2013. Operational activities of this mechanism should be launched in 2014. Commitments made in Cancun by developed countries were confirmed at the conference of Doha. Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Denmark, Sweden and the European Commission announced, on the occasion, concrete financial contributions for the period running up to 2015, totaling approximately \$ 6 billion.

Finally, North Africa should benefit from voluntary commitments, estimated at nearly \$ 500 billion expressed during the Rio+20 Conference, including the following ten areas:

1. Poverty Eradication : it is essentially funds to support the development and implementation of acceleration plans of MDGs ;
2. Vulnerable biodiversity, forests and ecosystems : more than 61 billion USD;
3. Water : over 4 million USD;

4. Sustainable energy: preferred destination of money to Africa in general, and to North Africa in particular ;
5. Climate Change : the amounts that can cover North Africa may not be very significant given the low geographical coverage suggested (where other African countries are already included)
6. Monitoring systems of sustainable development (indicators): these funds estimated at nearly \$10 million are for the post 2015 phase;
7. Sustainable Development economy: A large part is devoted to the promotion of green businesses ;
8. Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Development : financing actions centered on green economy;
9. Oceans and Seas : in North Africa, it concerns mainly efforts towards the reduction of coastal and marine pollution;
10. Raising awareness and Communication on Sustainable Development.

However, in order to translate these commitments into concrete actions, the countries of the sub-region should seize the parties involved in the areas mentioned above, and define with them the procedures of carrying out their commitments. These actions could be concerted and coordinated as part of a global initiative in which community-based international organizations, including ECA, should play a leading role (mobilization of funding from parties, supporting the regions concerned, discussions on roles, responsibilities and schedule, review of real needs ...).

1.4.4- Good governance

The promotion of good governance is one of the major objectives set by the governments of the sub-region, but also a strong recommendation from the Rio+20 conference, to all member states.

Economic and political good governance is essential to promote and preserve the gains in development. This is one of the basic conditions for the effectiveness of public policies.

While economic governance has improved in some countries of the sub-region, as evidenced by the performance achieved in North Africa, a great deal remains to be done in terms of political governance. These include strengthening State institutions for: (i) a greater transparency in the management of public affairs; (ii) the promotion of free and transparent electoral process; (iii) the fight against corruption; or (iv) improving the effectiveness of public services. These efforts will be differentiated according to each country, depending on the progress made by each.

Events occurred in 2011 in the sub-region, on the basis of economic and social protests, found a favorable response in terms of a greater involvement of civil society and youth in decision-making processes. This reinforces social responsibility and transparency in public affairs management.

Most countries have already carried out strategies and created institutions to fight against corruption. This is the case for example in Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Algeria. While Mauritania adopted, with the support of the United Nations, a strategy against corruption.

In general, all countries should implement measures to promote good governance. It is also necessary to strengthen institutional capacities at the national and local scales, to ensure an active participation of the various parties involved (including civil society, private sector ...) in the development process of the sub-region.

1.4.5- Regional integration

Regional integration is an opportunity for substantial economic growth since it allows direct flow of resources from one economic activity to another, or from a level of productivity to another. Despite its undeniable advantages, the economic union across the sub-region of North Africa, is not yet a success in terms of economic, social and environmental integration. To date, the countries of North Africa have not taken full advantage of the links between them as markets and sources of supply and, therefore, did not realize the potential gains in terms of economic growth and employment. Trade between the countries of the region represent less than 3% of the total volume of trade, the lowest level in all regional trade agreements registered with the WTO.

Strengthening regional integration remains an important means to sustainably manage natural resources, under high demand in this region, and provide effective and collective responses to the challenges of sustainable development in the entire sub-region. None of the Maghreb economies is now sufficiently developed to ensure alone its prosperity. Only together can they become successful. Cross-exploitation of strengths and potential of each country should be subject to further reflection and, a win-win partnership benefiting economic development throughout the region.

II. ANALYSIS AND CONSISTENCY OF PRIORITIES BY AREA AND TOPIC

The previous chapter highlighted the major constraints to sustainable development in the sub-region, of which some are economic, social or environmental. The report also identifies major cross-cutting issues that North Africa should take into account to be part of the sustainable development. Table 4 summarizes the major constraints identified.

Table 4. Summary of the major constraints identified

Economic constraints	Social constraints	Environmental constraints	Cross-cutting constraints
Vulnerability of the economies to shocks and climate risks	Unemployment rate still high, in particular among youth	Continuing degradation of natural resources (desertification, decrease of biodiversity...)	Weak regional integration
Weak diversification and high dependence of the economies vis-à-vis the natural resources / sectors (mines, oil, gas, agriculture, livestock, tourism, according to each country)	Threatening food insecurity and insufficient nutritional quality	Water scarcity and insufficient sanitation, mainly in rural areas	Insufficient promotion of good governance
Current growth rates are unable to create jobs	Population growth and urban development	Energy insecurity (access, sustainability...) and weak valorization of the renewable energy potential	Weak mobilization of financial resources
Non- inclusive growth	Poverty and poor social protection	Weak ability to address climate change and Pollutions	Insufficient promotion of green economy
Limited industrial development and investment climate to be encouraged	Regional disparities (geographic and of gender)	Insufficient integration of the principles of the sustainable development in the public policies	Unbalanced integration of the three dimensions of the sustainable development

In what follows, we framed these constraints in terms of priorities before cross-cutting them with the main results of the national consultation processes carried out in some countries for the elaboration of the post 2015 agenda.

2.1- SYNTHESIS OF PRIORITIES BY AREA AND BY TOPIC

We can draw from the previous chapter a number of priorities that will guide the future strategic actions of countries in the sub-region. These priorities have been structured in four areas of intervention (Table 5).

Table 5. Identification of priority axes of intervention

Axis 1. Green & inclusive Economy	Axis 2. Access to basic social services	Axis 3. Integrated control of global change	Axis 4. Rule of law and effectiveness of public action
Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Inclusive growth, poverty reduction and employment Green Economy and sustainable use of natural resources Investment structure and private sector promotion Infrastructure for Sustainable Economic Development Industrial Development, Research and Development and sustainable production methods Reduction of regional disparities and Territorial Approach to Sustainable Development Regional integration (trade, commerce, cooperation, policy coordination ...)	Population growth and urban development Youth unemployment and social protection Social Inequalities, Poverty and sustainable livelihoods Universal access to quality health care Hygiene and Nutritional Quality Education, vocational and technical training of good quality. Gender and Women's Empowerment Security nets and social protection	Climate change and reduction of disaster risk Desertification and Drought Sustainable management of natural resources (soil, water, forests) Energy security, sustainable and clean energy - Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystems Pollution and management of chemicals and hazardous waste Universal access to water and sanitation Integration of environment in public policy	Good Governance Peace and security of people, property and territory Equalities and Social Justice Mobilization of financial resources

2.2- PRIORITIES BY TOPIC AND AREA IDENTIFIED AT THE NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS FOR THE POST 2015 AGENDA

The consultations were launched in five of the seven countries of the sub-region. Four have already been completed (Morocco, Sudan, Algeria and Egypt), another is currently underway (Mauritania). For Tunisia and Libya, it was impossible to obtain information on the status of the implementation of this process.

During these national consultations in the countries, the importance of the process of achieving the MDGs has been widely discussed. The approach of planning, raising awareness and the means deployed allowed proper ownership of the issues, at least among some actors (public administration, civil society, experts). The participants to these national consultations welcomed some advantages of

the MDG process. The standardization of the canvas and the regular drafting of progress reports by country, by sub-region, by region, and on global scale, facilitated, according to participants, the ownership of the process.

Despite the relevance of the identified MDGs, certain topics, crucial for achieving sustainable development were not addressed or sparsely provided. These include issues related to governance, green economy, social justice and the safety of persons and property.

In terms of monitoring and assessment, major countries highlighted the need to combine qualitative and quantitative indicators to better refine the targets to be achieved and encourage responsibility in the implementation.

The lack of indicators at the local level was identified as a major gap under which the disparities, between different regions of the same country, persisted and even deepened economically, socially and environmentally. Fair access to basic services, the optimal use of regional economic potential cannot be achieved without appropriate indicators defined at this scale.

The synthesis of the results of these national consultations for the post-2015 agenda are presented in Table 6.

Table 6. Presentation of priority topics and areas identified through the process of national consultations

Countries	Progress made in national consultations of June 2013	Priority areas	Priority topics
Algeria	Completed	good governance and the rule of law	Improved access to public services with high quality, especially for the most vulnerable Simplification of administrative procedures, the fight against corruption and better communication between authorities and citizens Respecting of freedoms, better enforcement, promotion and strengthening of justice Social dialogue and the development of spaces for dialogue
		Housing	Better management of land and the living environment, incentives to build more effectively and cost reduction More equitable distribution of social housing
		Peace & security	The fight against certain social ills (crime, drugs, ...) Sensitizing the actors involved in this field, promoting prevention, and synergy between all partners Fight against terrorism, organized crime and other transnational scourges
		Employment, especially for youth and women	More diversified economy, economic growth more based more on productive sectors, environmentally-friendly and having a high content of ICT (redistribution of income based on labor productivity driven by agriculture and BTP as well as the knowledge-based economy), creating a better distribution of wealth Effective educational / training and strong synergy with the economic system, and a strong territorial equity Women and youth empowerment programs
		Elimination of factors leading to the environmental degradation	Fight against desertification and drought Improved resilience to climate change Restoration of degraded ecosystems and biodiversity conservation Fight against pollution
		Education	Improving the quality of education, its accessibility (especially for people with special needs, and in the most remote areas) Modernization (including investment in ICT)

			<p>Eradicating Illiteracy</p> <p>Investing more in vocational training and scientific research to increase productivity and incomes of workers in the long term</p> <p>Introducing more equity in the State's support</p> <p>Preserving the free education</p>
	Social cohesion		<p>Solidarity within the family, between communities and civil society, Establishing a culture of social dialogue, listening to others.</p>
	Health and Health Care Access		<p>Increasing health care services, including specialized ones, through greater extension of care benefiting the most sparsely covered areas (South and isolated areas in particular) and fragile populations (by multiplying the appropriate structures)</p> <p>Strengthening the capacity of health services and resources allotted (by providing vocational training throughout the life cycle and increasing budgets)</p> <p>Introducing more rationality and transparency in their management</p>
	Inclusive economy		<p>Supporting development initiatives targeting youth, women and children</p> <p>Reducing regional disparities and increasing social spending</p> <p>Boosting the economy by restoring investors' confidence, creating more jobs and increasing social spending</p>
	Human security		<p>Taking appropriate steps to control the emigration of young people</p> <p>Protecting Egyptian borders and restoring security in the streets by enforcing laws against crimes and violence</p>
Egypt	Governance	Completed	<p>Promoting the development of institutions and involving all partners in the design and implementation of economic and social policies (including youth, women and rural populations)</p> <p>Ensuring that sufficient resources are mobilized for monitoring, assessing and archiving documents for the implementation of development projects</p> <p>Ensuring that strategies and programs for sustainable development are formulated in a rational manner and are equipped with human and financial resources required for their implementation</p> <p>Developing a code of ethics for civil society</p> <p>Broadening dialogue between the Government and the private sector</p> <p>Opening communication channels to all civil society organizations</p> <p>Promoting greater citizen participation in the work of the civil society and encourage volunteerism</p> <p>Engaging Egyptian civil society, academia and the private sector in the formulation of public policies, including the future vision of the country, targets and indicators</p>

		Social Justice	<p>Reforming the education system by adapting it to the needs of the labor market</p> <p>Promoting the rule of law and justice for all</p> <p>Adopting in-depth reforms in the sectors of education and health to ensure the well-being of all citizens</p> <p>Strengthening social policies by controlling population growth and health through information and awareness campaigns (family planning, reproductive health, birth control ...)</p> <p>Enshrining promotion of human rights and gender equality in the Constitution, policies and strategies of the government and religious institutions</p> <p>Supporting initiatives targeting alternatives to fossil fuels (including renewable energy)</p> <p>Introducing measures to protect the environment, food security and preservation of water resources for future generations</p>
		Sustainable environment	<p>Providing universal quality education</p> <p>Ensuring access to quality health services</p> <p>Ensuring decent employment for every citizen in the context of sustainable economic growth</p>
		Economic and social rights	<p>Supporting the emergence of a political class, guarantor of rights and institutions</p> <p>Promoting women's political participation</p> <p>Promoting values of citizenship</p> <p>Fight against corruption to ensure rights for all</p> <p>Respecting the environment is above all a civic value</p>
		Governance and Rule of Law	<p>Only a peaceful coexistence and international peace can guarantee the safety of people and communities</p> <p>Ensuring the required financing for sustainable development</p> <p>Strengthening the role of the United Nations that coordinates funding for sustainable development</p>
		Sustainable environment	Ensuring equal rights for all without inequalities or disparities
		Peace & security	
		Coordination and financing sustainable development	
		Human rights	
Morocco	Completed	Inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods	<p>Poverty Reduction</p> <p>Reduction of unemployment, especially among young</p> <p>Reviving agriculture and industry</p> <p>Strengthening the private sector</p> <p>Fighting against the environmental degradation</p> <p>Understanding the impact of climate change risks and natural disasters</p>
Mauritania	Underway		

Sudan	Completed	<p>Peace and Governance</p>	<p>Diversification of livelihoods in rural and urban areas Promoting investment in agriculture and livestock Providing a social security net and basic social protection</p> <p>Building institutional capacity for better governance Supporting and finalizing the decentralization process Improving coordination on development assistance Promoting the rule of law</p> <p>Decentralizing management, planning and budget allocation powers Strengthening systems of the civil status and child protection Strengthening the capacity of actors in planning and data analysis Strengthening capacity for gender integration</p> <p>Ensuring peace and social cohesion by promoting dialogue and cultural diversity (supporting civil society to play an important role in this area, ensuring the security of different communities, control traffic of light weapons)</p>
		<p>Access to basic services and infrastructures</p>	<p>Sustainable access to basic services for the entire population (achieving the MDGs) Capacity Building for a Sustainable Development Promoting reforms to transparent governance Strengthening sectoral policies Implementing efficient and effective sectoral policies for economic and social development Supporting the generalization of quality basic services targeting the most needy</p>

2.3- CONSISTENCY OF TOPICS AND AREAS

Based on the previous analysis and taking into account the priorities identified by some countries as a result of national consultation process by country for the post-2015 agenda, we can propose and describe the priority areas and topics identified for the sub-region. Given the interdependence of certain topics (inter-relations between the three pillars of sustainable development) and the need to reduce the number of priority topics, an aggregation of these issues was conducted. This aggregation has ensured consistency between topics and areas, without losing sight of the priorities expressed at the scale of the sub-region.

2.3.1 GOAL 1. Reducing poverty, marginalization and social exclusion of vulnerable population

This area is structured around four major targets : (i) eradication of poverty; (ii) ensuring gender equality; (iii) providing education and training; and (iv) ensuring food security.

2.3.1.1 Eradication of poverty

Although poverty has declined significantly in recent years, across the sub-region and that many countries can achieve MDG 1 by 2015, there are still alarming figures in some countries. This is the case for example in Mauritania and Sudan, which showed respectively 42 and 46% in poverty rate for 2012. The poverty rates in Morocco and Egypt are also quite high (over 25%). This poverty remains higher in rural areas, where over 50% of the population is poor, especially in Mauritania, Egypt and Sudan.

The assessment of the implementation of the MDGs has helped identify a number of lessons, particularly certain determinants for poverty reduction which have not been taken into account by the MDGs. These include in particular access to land and land ownership. This topic will be integrated within the framework of the priority topics identified. Appropriate measures shall be taken by countries to facilitate equal and transparent access.

The poverty threshold should be defined by country and at the sub-regional level. The impact of regional disparities and social inequality on poverty can thus be considered as priority issues. Highlighted effects of social policies (social protection, health), environmental (access to water and energy) and economic policies (inclusive growth) on poverty will help the follow-up of the holistic integration of the three pillars of sustainable development.

2.3.1.2 Ensuring gender equality

The situation of women has improved considerably regarding education and health, but there is still significant backwardness, especially on issues of employment, access to productive resources, justice and representation in decision-making spheres. However, offering women better economic opportunities will lead to stronger growth and a decline in poverty.

This axis also addresses issues such as security, given the increase of violence and crimes against women in the sub-region (recent example of Egypt). The integration of gender approach in the budgetary process should be a priority. Finally, the importance of access to health care, particularly in rural areas appears to be another priority to be taken into account.

2.3.1.3 Providing education and vocational training

The quality of the educational systems in the sub-region is continuously declining. These systems no longer meet the needs of the labor market. To progress, deep reforms should be undertaken. They aim vocational and technical training to better meet the market needs, but also the primary, secondary and higher education and non-formal education. To achieve this, it is essential to mobilize significant funding for the sector and invest in strengthening the educational staff. Gender equality and monitoring the adequacy between human capital and employability should be taken into account.

2.3.1.4 Ensuring food security and nutritional quality

Agriculture, livestock and fishing hold a considerable potential in terms of poverty reduction and food security. In the sub-region, two countries still suffer from regular food crises and important deep nutritional deficiencies (Mauritania and Sudan).

Issues such as the exploitation of natural resources, sustainable production and consumption patterns or social inequalities, health and poverty will articulate policies to be implemented so as to achieve food security and an adequate nutritional quality.

2.3.2 GOAL 2. Ensuring universal access to basic services

This goal will focus on the following two components: (i) health and quality care, (ii) access for all to water and sanitation.

2.3.2.1 Ensuring access for all to quality health care

The right to health for all is now part of most development strategies in the sub-region. Performances in this field have been remarkable, except in Mauritania and Sudan. Significant progress has been made, particularly in relation to access to basic health, reducing infant and maternal mortality, and improving the overall health of populations. However, the task remains largely unachieved in this sub-region, which is also facing new challenges. The latter include child malnutrition, which reduces the productive capacity of populations, drastic budget cuts related to the current economic conditions, the low level of health spending in some countries, or increased costs of health care. Other issues relating to the quality and level of social protection, training of health personnel and management of biomedical waste all shall be resolved.

As a result, significant investments will be required to introduce modern processes, information management systems and new regulatory structures to ensure the quality, security, fairness and effectiveness of health services.

In countries like Mauritania and Sudan, significant efforts must be made to achieve the MDG targets in this area.

Following the implementation of the targeted actions in this area, it is expected to: (i) provide access to health care in terms of quality, cost and proximity; (ii) strengthen the productive power of the sub-region populations; (iii) modernize and secure care systems, (iv) ensure sustained funding of the sector; and (v) reduce regional disparities and social inequalities.

2.3.2.2 Ensuring access for all to water and sanitation

While access to improved water sources showed significant progress in the sub-region, the management of water resources will still be part of the major challenges that will face the countries of the sub-region for the next years, given the scarcity of this resource and forecasts of water stress announced for the coming years¹⁵.

The high water consumption, particularly for agricultural purposes, along with the effects of climate change require the adoption of integrated and sustainable management methods. For this purpose, it will be necessary to have the most accurate knowledge on the demand and its evolution by type of consumption in order to set up an effective and sustainable management.

The sanitation situation is more troubling, especially in rural areas and in some of the sub-region countries such as Mauritania and Sudan.

Significant progresses are also expected in terms of economic development, particularly in rural areas, but also in terms of improved health conditions, hygiene and quality of life in general.

2.3.3 GOAL 3. Operating a structural transformation of economies and achieving a green and inclusive growth

Four major targets make up this goal: (i) green economy; (ii) sustainable protection of the environment; (iii) sustainable energy; and (iv) inclusive growth.

2.3.3.1 Creating the conditions for a green economy

The economic advantages of natural resources should mainly benefit the poor. These dividends, from forest, mineral, oil, gas and fish resources, are often controlled by privileged groups, while they can

¹⁵ Climate change adaptation and resilience to natural disasters in the North African coastal cities. World Bank, 2011

significantly improve the living conditions of the most disadvantaged. Taxations on these natural resources are important measures for green growth, but it must be adapted in order to avoid prejudice to the livelihoods of the poorest.

This area is complementary to all the others, but particularly to area 5 (inclusive growth and employment) and 9 (environment), given the current economic, social and environmental situation of the sub-region. It combines the sustainable management of natural resources, climate resilience and clean growth to integrate these three pillars of sustainable development. It is also a strong recommendation of the Rio+20 report.

To achieve this, countries should implement systematic environmental assessments on all levels: macroeconomic policies, development programs, private companies and civic conduct.

Actions must be also taken at the level of green technology transfers between North and sub-region countries through, for example, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The sub-region's technology needs assessments in this domain should be conducted.

This axis is also an opportunity to strengthen regional integration through policies, harmonization of regulations, mechanisms of green financing, employment, technology exchange and trade.

The following results are expected from the implementation of all these topics: (i) improved well-being; (ii) reduced regional imbalances and inequalities; (iii) creation of green jobs; (iv) reduction in carbon emissions and pollution in general, and (v) control of a clean industrial development.

2.3.3.2 Promoting inclusive growth

Despite the structural changes the sub-region has undergone for the past three to four decades, the level and pace of economic growth could not generate enough jobs to respond to the large increase in young people. Unemployment rate, particularly among young people, is one of the highest in the world. The investors and consumers trust has been strongly shaken, especially after social claim movements that crossed the sub-region in the past two years. Industrial development has been slow and inefficient, especially in comparison to other developing countries, including those of East Asia.

The private sector involvement is crucial, based on a transparent relation between the latter and governments. Economy diversification, improvement of business climate, adaptation of education and vocational training sectors, and the creation of added value through the development of sectors with high growth potential are important issues that must be included.

It will be expected from this axis to: (i) enable the creation of decent and sustainable jobs, especially for young people; (ii) contribute to poverty eradication; and (iii) reduce gender inequalities; (iv) foster entrepreneurship; and (v) minimize regional disparities.

2.3.3.3 Adopting a sustainable energy

The year 2012 was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. This was an opportunity for the international community to highlight the importance of technology transfer and its diffusion worldwide, particularly in North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation and regional and sub-regional cooperation.

The global agenda resulting from this initiative has three main goals: (i) universal access to modern energy services, (ii) a 40% reduction in global energy intensity, and (iii) a 30% increase of the use of renewable energy in the world.

The Rio+20 outcome document refers to an access to modern energy for all, the doubling of energy efficiency rate and the doubling of the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. It also emphasizes that the necessary energy transition must take into account the capacities and vulnerabilities of each country.

In North Africa, renewable energy is a substantial alternative to fossil fuels. The potential of sustainable energy sources is able to meet current and future energy needs of the sub-region, and to support a sustainable economic growth. However, it should be noted that, despite a growing demand for energy in all countries, significant disparities exist in terms of energy needs and supply, as well as the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency policy. A country like Mauritania today shows one of the world's lowest rates of access to energy in rural areas (<5%).

Significant efforts shall be made to take into account the constraints of the sub-region. This will help in capacity building (both human and technological) for the use of a considerable potential to mobilize sustainable financing with an efficient private sector involvement.

2.3.3.4 Ensuring sustainable environmental protection

This axis takes into account all environmental issues in the sub-region. It is mainly regarding desertification, sustainable management of natural resources, including soils, forestry, mining, oil and fishery resources, conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems (particularly fragile ones), management of pollution and waste, and control over the effects of climate change. Progress in this area has been very low during the first phase (MDG 7).

Ownership of these issues requires their effective integration into policies, programs and projects, but also participation and support of the private sector and civil society. Environmental governance at the local level should be a major topic, leaning on a territorial vision of sustainable development (Agenda 21) and targeting the sustainable use of natural capital in order to reduce social and economic disparities between regions.

The development of this axis is also a strategic opportunity to strengthen sub-regional integration through better coordination of activities and a closer technical and financial cooperation.

2.3.4 GOAL 4. Building a sustainable peace on a transparent basis

This goal consists of two targets: (i) ensuring peace and security, and (ii) ensuring sustainable good governance.

2.3.4.1 Ensuring peace and security

Recent developments in the sub-region and neighboring sub-regions call to anticipate the future and adopt a number of policies and instruments to prevent the specters of terrorism and organized crime.

It will also ease social and political tensions and help countries ensure a smooth transition to the rule of law and democratic governance. The achievement of targets to be identified in this area is closely linked to the success reached by sub-region countries in other domains, including employment, social justice (reducing social inequalities and regional disparities) governance, and access to basic services (water, health and energy).

The guarantee of fair justice for all, the capacity of the security forces, border security, the fight against terrorism and extremism, and the decrease of crime should be the priority topics in order to meet the targeted goals in this area.

These to-be-taken actions are expected to: (i) reduce the risk of political instability and restore investor trust; (ii) anchor social justice in the functioning of the State; (iii) improve living conditions and well-being.

2.3.4.2 Maintaining sustainable good governance

This is to strengthen the capacity of state and non-state parties as well as the private sector in terms of good governance: technical and budgetary planning, cross-sectoral coordination, assessment of public policies and fight against corruption. In parallel, the focus will be on the control of the civil status, strengthening citizen participation, transparency of democratic processes and support deconcentration and decentralization policies.

This axis will result in a positive impact on equal opportunities among citizens and regions, marking the authority of the state, providing access to basic services across the country, creating sustainable and decent jobs, but also protecting natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems from the sub-regional to the local level.

III. Sustainable development goals, targets and indicators

3.1- Summary of results of the Millennium development goals

3.1.1 Advantages

At the sub-regional scale, an evident effect of actors' mobilization linked to the process of the MDGs implementation and monitoring was noted. Cooperative efforts provided by technical and financial partners, especially the United Nations system, had, as first corollary, a peculiar awareness of all development parties in the sub-region countries. The deployed approaches have resulted in a greater emergence of civil society, on the one hand, since this process is more present in the decision-making process, and in the internalization of the mechanisms for consultation and participation in major issues of sustainable development, on the other hand.

The implementation of the MDGs has also helped, as a major result, in placing the fight against poverty at the heart of development issues. The typology and different complex dimensions of poverty have been advanced and explained to different parties. Moreover, in order to better inform the proposed indicators, special efforts have been made by the States in collecting data and organizing more suitable information systems.

These assets should be valued and provide a basis for the SDGs development.

3.1.2 Limits

Despite the interest aroused by the MDGs and investments made by countries to achieve them, it is clear that with the enlargement of extreme poverty in some countries (ie. Mauritania), the main challenge of poverty is still threatening. Two factors may explain this failure: (i) the fact that the MDGs have not really addressed the real causes of poverty, but rather manifestations, causes that may be different from one region to another or from one country to another; (ii) the failure to take into account some major issues with a direct impact on poverty (ie governance, fight against corruption, climate change, green economy, employment, regional disparities ...).

Consultations already undertaken in some of the sub-region countries often refer to the fact that the MDGs have sought to achieve a result regardless of the means to achieve it.

Failure to take into account the indicators reflecting the relationship between the three dimensions of sustainable development is another major weakness of the MDGs. The approach can be considered too sectoral. Also, certain regions specificities and the contribution of regional integration for sustainable development have been overlooked.

3.2- Proposal of a matrix presentation for SDGs

This report suggests a matrix for SDGs presentation, containing the priority goals, targets and indicators for the sub-region of North Africa, on the basis of previous analysis, and prioritized areas and topics that have been identified.

Table 5. Matrix presentation of Goals, targets and indicators proposed for the sub-region of North Africa

Goals	Targets	Indicators
<p>Goal 1. Reducing poverty and social exclusion of vulnerable communities</p>	<p>Target 1. Reducing to zero, between 2015 and 2035, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1.25 a day.</p> <p>Target 2. 50% increase in the number of people with secure access to land and land ownership (urban vs. rural, men vs. women, regional disparities)</p> <p>Target 3. Providing, by 2035, universal social protection to all poor and needy layers of the population (100% coverage of population)</p> <p>Target 4. Reducing by at least three quarters, between 2015 and 2035, the proportion of people suffering from hunger</p> <p>Target 5. Adopting patterns of sustainable management of production sectors such as agriculture, livestock and fishing while increasing production by 50% between 2015 and 2035.</p> <p>Target 6. Improve the nutritional quality of food (primary production and food industries) by adopting clean production methods</p> <p>Target 7. By 2035, provide all children, boys and girls, with the means to complete their high school education</p> <p>Target 8. 50% increase, between 2015 and 2035, the reception capacities of technical and vocational training structures</p> <p>Target 9. Eliminate, by 2035, all forms of violence and discrimination against women</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of population with less than \$ 1.25 per day in purchasing power parity 2. Proportion of population with access to land ownership 3. Coverage rate of social protection (global, by region, by sex and quintile) 4. Proportion of the population suffering from hunger 5. Share of imports in national consumption 6. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy 7. Proportion of irrigated areas compared to the overall potential 8. Net enrollment rate in secondary education 9. Net enrollment rate in primary education 10. Number of people benefiting from the technical and vocational training 11. Rate and insertion deadlines related to training 12. Girls / boys rate in primary, secondary and higher education 13. Literacy rate of women aged between 15 to 24 years compared to men 14. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament and in local elected positions.

<p>Goal 2. Ensuring structural transformation of the economy and Promoting a green and inclusive growth</p>	<p>Target 10. Create, between 2015 and 2035, the equivalent to 20% of national employment of green jobs</p> <p>Target 11. Develop between 2015 and 2035, a clean Industry equivalent to 30% of the national industrial production</p> <p>Target 12. Transform and strengthen the energy infrastructure to make electricity accessible and affordable by 2035</p> <p>Target 13. Reduce by 50%, between 2015 and 2035, the proportion of unqualified unemployed young people</p> <p>Target 14. By 2035, reduce by at least half the rate of unemployment and underemployment of young university graduates</p> <p>Target 15. Double, between 2015 and 2035, private investment growth rates</p> <p>Target 16. Double the share of the manufacturing sector in GDP by 2035</p> <p>Target 17. Increase by 50%, between 2015 and 2035, the number of people receiving credit services to establish a productive activity</p> <p>Target 18. Reduce by 50%, between 2015 and 2035, the number of people working in the informal sector</p> <p>Target 19. Increase, between 2015 and 2035, the share of renewable energies to 30% of the energy mix</p> <p>Target 20. Achieve by 2035 an access for all to a modern and efficient clean energy (especially in agriculture, construction, industry and transport)</p> <p>Target 21. Ensure, by 2035, the integration of the environment in all public policies (sub-regional, national and local) for a sustainable management of environmental issues</p> <p>Target 22. 50% reduction, by 2035, the rate of natural resource, forests and biodiversity degradation</p> <p>Target 23. 50% reduction by 2035 of land degradation and fight against desertification and drought</p> <p>Target 24. Enhance the productivity of oasis ecosystems</p> <p>Target 25. Improve the resilience and adaptability of ecosystems, production systems and populations to climate change</p> <p>Target 26. Improve the management of risks and disasters</p>	<p>15. Carbon dioxide emissions (per capita) and consumption of CFCs that deplete the ozone layer (tons of potential ozone depletion)</p> <p>16. Number of businesses and jobs created in the field of environment</p> <p>17. Number of built electricity infrastructure and network density</p> <p>18. Share of green investments / overall investment</p> <p>19. Unemployment rate for unskilled youth</p> <p>20. Unemployment rate for young university graduates</p> <p>21. Employment / population ratio</p> <p>22. Share of granted private investment</p> <p>23. Share of manufacturing in GDP</p> <p>24. Proportion of the population with no access to electricity</p> <p>25. Share of renewable energies in the energy mix</p> <p>26. Reduction rate in energy intensity associated with energy efficiency programs</p> <p>27. Share of protected land and marine areas compared to the total area</p> <p>28. Percentage of endangered species</p> <p>29. Rate of natural resources degradation</p> <p>30. Cost of natural resources degradation (% of GDP)</p> <p>31. Implementation rate of environmental studies and auditing / Program or Project (public and private)</p> <p>32. Rate of land degradation</p> <p>33. Productivity of oasis ecosystems</p> <p>34. Number and type of initiatives and programs for adaptation to CC</p> <p>35. Number of CDM projects and volumes of mobilized funds</p>
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<p>Goal 3. Ensuring universal access to basic services</p>	<p>Target 27. Reduce by two thirds, between 2015 and 2035 the mortality rate of children under the age of 5</p> <p>Target 28. Reduce by three quarters, between 2015 and 2035, the maternal mortality rate</p> <p>Target 29. Increase by 25% between 2015 and 2035, the volume of public spending on health</p> <p>Target 30. Ensure universal access to drinking water in households and at all public buildings and institutions</p> <p>Target 31. Increase by three quarters, between 2015 and 2035, the proportion of urban population with access to sanitation, and by 50% the proportion of rural population with access to sanitation</p>	<p>36. Proportion of the population located more than 15 minutes of a health center</p> <p>37. medical doctor/population rate in rural areas</p> <p>38. Mortality rate of children under five years</p> <p>39. Rate of maternal mortality</p> <p>40. Share of health spending in national public expenditure</p> <p>41. Share of the national population that has no access to drinking water</p> <p>42. Share of the rural population that has no access to drinking water</p> <p>43. Proportion of urban population with access to adequate sanitation</p> <p>44. Share of the rural population with access to adequate sanitation</p>
<p>Goal 4. Building sustainable peace on a transparent base</p>	<p>Target 32. Eliminate, by 2035, the sources of conflict (ethnic, border, community, religious ...)</p> <p>Target 33. Remove 2035 incarceration for crimes of opinion</p> <p>Target 34. Fully secure Civil Status by 2035</p> <p>Target 35. Reduce by at least 90% by 2035, all forms of corruption</p> <p>Target 36. Ensure, by 2035, the free participation of all institutions of countervailing power</p>	<p>45. Number of reported acts of violence (including those related to terrorism and extremism)</p> <p>46. Number of suppressed press crimes / censored articles / shut down media outlets</p> <p>47. Number of people incarcerated for crimes of opinion</p> <p>48. Average time of files processing by the judicial system</p> <p>49. Number of Civil State document frauds and forgeries</p> <p>50. Percentage of administrative decisions fully covered by the devolved and decentralized administrations</p> <p>51. Number of peaceful political changes both on the national (presidential elections) and local levels (municipal and legislative elections)</p> <p>52. Autonomy degree of constitutional countervailing powers</p> <p>53. Frequency of constitutional amendments</p> <p>54. Number of projects, programs and development initiatives implemented by Civil Society and the Private Sector</p>

IV. Conclusions and recommendations for the ownership and operationalization of sustainable Development Goals in the sub-region

The aim of this report was to analyze the priorities for sustainable development of the sub-region countries of North Africa in order to provide a matrix for SDGs, including goals, targets and indicators. The analysis showed that despite extraordinary human potential and huge natural resources, the sub-region is now facing major social, economic and ecological challenges, whose nature can jeopardize sustainable development of this sub-region if no action is taken.

The report identified and analyzed the various challenges facing the sub-region to achieve the sustainable development. Major goals were developed to support all priority areas (Table 6).

Table 6. Sustainable Development Goals and priority topics identified

Goal 1. Reducing poverty and social exclusion of vulnerable communities	Goal 2. Ensuring structural transformation of the economy and Promoting a green and inclusive growth	Goal 3. Ensuring universal access to basic services	Goal 4. Building sustainable peace on a transparent base
Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security, poverty reduction and employment Nutritional quality and hygiene Social Inequalities, Poverty and sustainable livelihoods Education, vocational and technical training of good quality. Gender and Women's Empowerment Security nets and social protection Reduction of regional disparities and Territorial Approach to Sustainable Development Regional integration (trade, commerce, cooperation, policy coordination ...)	Green Economy and sustainable valorization of natural resources Inclusive growth Youth unemployment and social protection Investment structure and private sector promotion Infrastructure for Sustainable Economic Development Industrial Development, Research and Development and sustainable production methods Climate change and reduction of disaster risk Desertification and Drought Sustainable management of natural resources (soil, water, forests) Energy security, sustainable and clean energy Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystems Integration of environment in public policy Pollution and management of chemicals and hazardous waste	Universal access to quality health care Population growth and urban development Universal access to water and sanitation	Good Governance Peace and security of people, property and territory Equalities and Social Justice Mobilization of financial resources Capacity building

These priorities, previously expressed in the review of sustainable development implementation in the sub-region, of Rio 92 to Rio +20, could be supplemented by the results of national consultations on the post 2015 agenda, launched in 5 of the 7 countries in the sub-region. This has led to the formulation of priority areas and topics that later resulted in the Sustainable Development Goals (Table 6).

To implement the identified priorities, it is necessary to make real economic reforms to promote a sustainable, inclusive and fair growth, and to improve the living conditions of populations. The development trajectory will reduce the income-related poverty and inequality, create decent jobs, increase access to social services, and promote resilience to climate disasters. The suggested Sustainable Development Goals and the associated targets are meant to meet these expectations as long as appropriate policies, monitoring tools and rigorous evaluation are implemented, and that human and financial resources are available. Those indicators have been proposed in order to refine the monitoring and evaluation of the achieved progress.

The process of formulation of these SDGs considered a number of recommendations of the Rio+20 report and included in the terms of reference of the study. These recommendations include the need to: (i) maintain the consistency and continuity of the MDGs achievements in order to finalize actions already initiated, (ii) reduce the number of goals, (iii) ensure the concrete interdependence between the different pillars of sustainable development through a balanced integration of these dimensions, (iv) maintain the universal spirit of Goals while incorporating sub-regional and national specificities, and (v) enable easy integration of the SDGs in the UN post 2015 Development agenda.

In this context, the study suggests 4 main goals, 36 targets and 54 indicators. One aspect of the SDGs pertinence and originality is to have succeeded to take into account certain topics that were totally missed out by the MDGs, while being critical to the achievement of sustainable development, such as: governance, fight against corruption, climate change, green economy, employment or regional disparities.

The proposed SDGs will be enrolled in the framework of an international agenda to which all regions of the world participated and on which an expert committee under the UN mandate is already working on. The contributions of each party will help better meet the expressed needs and priorities by different countries, but also address the identified shortcomings. Synthesis of the reports produced in the five sub-regions represent the contribution of Africa to the new vision of development outlined in 'The future we want' report, outcome of the Rio+20.

Moreover, it is worth pointing out that the efficient implementation of these goals involves a number of risks that the countries of the sub-region should work on.

First, the adoption of a truly systemic vision is always difficult to put into practice, and thus it requires awareness-raising, information, training and acquiring the adequate tools. Shortcomings in data collection and data analysis are also likely to hamper the process. For this purpose, States must

make significant efforts to provide structures for statistics and information systems of human, material and financial resources to meet this challenge.

It must also make sure, through a long-term strategy, to: (i) raise awareness and instruct parties of the process of SDGs implementation (ii) fully involve the private sector and civil society organizations, and (iii) monitor and assess the achieved results in order to correct errors and enhance success.

Ownership of these SDGs by different parties will be crucial. To achieve this, the countries, with the support of UN agencies, must certainly implement awareness-raising campaigns on the challenges and objectives of this agenda but also the means of cooperation that will be deployed. Consistency, complementarities and differences between the MDGs and SDGs processes should be explained to all parties involved in carrying out the SDGs process.

In order to clarify issues related to financial resources, which were often raised during the MDGs process, meetings and roundtables should be devoted to this subject, to reassure countries in relation to the expected support from partners, on the one hand, and to coordinate activities between the technical and financial partners, on the other. For the moment, a process of planning for SDGs achievement should be accomplished in all countries, starting from a specific reference situation (2015) and an assessment of needs up to 2035.

Internal and external financial resources will be mobilized through targeted strategies, enhancing the sub-region assets and highlighting the institutional and regulatory reforms, and the good governance.

Of course some more sensitive topics should be firmly addressed, but the cultural or religious sensitivities they could be generated must be taking into account. These include security issues or community or ethnic conflicts.

Capacity building is another important determinant of SDGs success, because it allows the effective involvement of all parties, especially on relatively new topics and issues, such as green economy. Contributions in terms of economic and environmental sustainability of the obtained results and of job creation need to be explained and internalized by the different categories of parties.

Finally, it is important to prepare the political, institutional and regulatory frameworks for a successful implementation of the SDGs. These frameworks should be designed for all local, national and sub-regional levels. Indeed, this approach, if properly conducted, is expected to benefit from all the opportunities of regional integration. The role of UN agencies, including those present in the sub-region, will be critical to achieve this crucial process for the sustainable development of North Africa.

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