



46TH CONFERENCE
N'DJAMENA, 8 – 9 OCTOBER 2024

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The economic development of African countries through the development of natural resources, the diversification of the economy and industrialization.

*Resolution adopted by the 46th Conference
(N'Djamena, 9 October 2024)*

The African Parliamentary Union, meeting in its 46th Conference on 8 and 9 October 2024 in N'Djamena (Chad),

Considering that the African continent has sufficient natural resources enabling it to achieve its economic development, such as land, water, mineral resources, energy (oil, natural gas), precious stones, gold, zinc, forests, etc.,

Considering that peace in our countries will allow the free movement of people and goods throughout the continent

Convinced that the economic development of African countries necessarily involves the development of their natural resources, the diversification of their economies and industrialization,

Aware that economic development must be underpinned by the construction of modern infrastructure as well as the establishment of ICT and appropriate communication connectivity networks,

Noting that in many cases, the continent's natural resources are of greater benefit to Western countries because of the low level of industrialization of African countries,

Convinced that Africa must benefit more from its natural resources to stimulate growth, through their use, by decision-makers, as a driver for economic and social development, in particular through the establishment of processing industries,

Stressing the importance of industrial development to ensure inclusive and resilient economic and social growth,

Affirming that Africa's industrial development can benefit from strong structural factors linked with demography, urbanization, booming domestic markets and digital and technological developments,

Considering that industry plays a vital role in the development of African countries by:

- creating added value and generating more activities along the value chains from raw materials to finished products;
- stimulating productivity by introducing new techniques and technologies,
- creating jobs, and increasing the skills of the workforce;
- promoting the formal economy by improving the trade balance through the creation of goods;

Noting that the low level of industrialization hampers the development of African economies, which offer little added value by remaining dependent on agriculture and the export of unprocessed raw materials,

Convinced that African countries must re-think industrialization and development objectives based on the efficient and rational use of its natural resources for the structural transformation of the continent,

Recalling the African Union Agenda 2063, as the African Union's strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of Africa, which aims to maximize the use of Africa's resources for the benefit of all Africans, and which calls for promoting sectoral and productivity plans, as well as developing regional and commodity value chains to support the implementation of industrial policies at all levels,

Also based on the Economic Report on Africa by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Union (AU) entitled "*Making the most of Africa's commodities: industrializing for growth, jobs and economic transformation*", Addis Ababa, March 2013,

1. *Calls on* African governments to pursue an economic development policy focused primarily on the development of natural resources by promoting:

- effective governance with the establishment of regulatory frameworks and transparent policies to manage natural resources in a sustainable and equitable manner;
- the development of infrastructure and utilization of advanced technologies necessary for the exploitation, transport and processing of natural resources;
- the use of advanced technologies to improve the extraction and transformation of resources while minimizing the environmental impact;

2. *Urges* African decision-makers to do their utmost to establish lasting peace throughout the African continent:

3. *Urges* African Governments to put in place industrialization policies by:

- establishing industrial zones and technology parks equipped with basic infrastructure and essential services;
- investing in education and vocational training to develop a skilled workforce capable of supporting emerging industrial sectors;
- promoting partnerships between the public and private sectors to stimulate investing in industrialization and creating local jobs;
- diversifying Africa's technical partners to ensure genuine industrialization in African countries.

4. *Affirms* that African countries can diversify their economies beyond natural resources, stimulate industrial growth and create permanent jobs, while ensuring sustainable use of resources and strengthening their economic resilience to fluctuations in global markets;

5. *Urges* African States to diversify their economies by promoting, in particular:

- investments in non-extractive sectors such as agriculture, live-stock, tourism, financial services, ICT, and other manufacturing and processing industries;
- creating an enabling environment for small and medium-sized enterprises by simplifying administrative procedures, providing access to finance and providing technical and business support;

6. *Encourages* African States to pursue national reforms to improve agro-pastoral productivity and the quality of technical training, and ultimately make African economies more competitive and productive and thereby allow for greater job creation;

7. *Urges* African States to give the necessary importance to the agricultural sector and to the development of agri-food and agro-industries that provide added value to Africa's agricultural products, meet the needs of the domestic market and contribute to inter-African trade;

8. *Emphasizes* the need for a new development paradigm that prioritizes the structural transformation of natural resources at the internal level, especially in a sub-regional framework;

9. *Calls on* African States to continually promote regional integration by actively participating in regional and international trade agreements to strengthen economic integration and access new markets, on the one hand, and to develop inter-State cooperation that can strengthen regional infrastructure that promotes cross-border trade and investment, on the other hand;

10. *Strongly recommends* the establishment of infrastructure, particularly in the sectors of:

- energy and transport by developing energy and transport networks to support industrial and commercial activities across the continent;
- digitization by improving access to high-speed Internet and information and communication technologies (ICTs) to facilitate trade and innovation;

11. *Urges* African countries to take advantage of the global energy transition that is moving towards renewable energies, such as wind, solar, lithium batteries and hydroelectricity, and will therefore rely on the abundant minerals, such as copper, lithium and coltan that exist in Africa;

12. *Calls on* African institutions and the international community to continue their efforts to prioritize industry by supporting development strategies adopted at the continental level, including the Post-2015 Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063.