



Major issues highlighted by North African Countries at the 72nd annual UNGA Meeting

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The 72nd United Nations Annual General Assembly meeting was attended by leaders of five North African nations along with other world leaders. From Egypt its President participated while Libya was represented by President of the Presidency Council of Government of National Accord, and Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco were represented by foreign ministers of the respective countries.

Terrorism and Immigration:

The President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah El-Sisi said that today the Arab world is the region most prone to terrorism. The menace of terrorism can be defeated by establishing peace because the absence of peace has been manipulated and taken as an excuse by many terror groups. Now the time has come to eliminate terrorism form across the world. What is more worrisome is that every third refugee in the world is an Arab today. The Mediterranean Sea has become a conduit for irregular migrants from Asian and African states who are fleeing the scourge of civil strife, as well as the despair of economic and social hardships

Mr Serraj of Libya told the General Assembly that illegal immigration is affecting the security and economy of the country; and, France, Italy and Germany have helped Libya in tackling the migration crisis, especially Italy which has trained the Libyan forces. Libya will not provide citizenship to migrants but they will be returned after normalcy is

restored. Libya is facing difficulties in tackling the consequence of the ISIS's control of some cities after they have been shunted out of the cities and towns.

The Tunisian representative said that the world's hotbeds of terrorism are fuelled by poverty and it is also caused by refugee flows and large-scale violations of human rights across the world. The Tunisian calls for a comprehensive global response to the terrorist threat emphasises the case for evolving a comprehensive mechanism.

The Moroccan foreign minister said that the world can see that the danger of war between the states have diminished substantially but the security situation is worsening because of the rise of terrorism, secessionism and climate change; and, these, in no way, are less dangerous to be ignored. Similarly, advancement in technology has brought much progress but its wrong use by terror outfits has engendered many new crises and created a new security challenge. In the face of non-traditional threats and the world's incapability to comprehend that what is needed is strengthening of the social institutions to improve the capability to encounter those threats. Further Morocco is of the view that global institutions should be strengthened and multi-polarity should be encouraged along with the politics of alliances and solidarity to combat terrorism. Morocco has always been committed to its global obligations and playing a constructive role in fighting radicalism and terrorism; and, of late, has done a good job to address the issue of migration as well. There are several institutions in Morocco which are producing hundreds of preachers and Imams with secular outlook and tolerant orientation, and they are playing a great role in presenting a moderate image of Islam which would, of course, contain the rise of radical belief and extremist faith.

The foreign minister of Algeria said that the raging bloody conflict across the world today is in more pressing need of an immediate solution than at any time in the past. Some of the raging issues are poverty, backwardness, ecological imbalance, terrorism and other conflicts which need immediate global attention. Due to rising terrorism, the collective security system has completely collapsed and what we will pass on to our next generation would not be the same that we have inherited from our predecessors. Terrorism, radicalism and violence are haunting the global community and what is more dangerous is the use of social media in spreading this menace and inspiring the youth across the globe. Moreover, the issue of foreigners joining the terror groups in the Middle East has further put the global community in a fix, and we need to ponder over it more seriously. The biggest remedy for this menace is deepening of democracy and politics of reconciliation, and Algeria has realised the utility of these measures and achieved great success. Democratisation has served to remove the garb of religion and politics of these terror groups and exposed them before the people.

The issue of migration is equally important and we need to evolve a comprehensive policy to tackle it. Algeria cannot ignore the plight of the immigrants who are fleeing the brutality of their home states; and, one should not forget that they can be social and economic assets as well. What is needed at the moment is to evolve a comprehensive strategy and mechanism to tackle the crisis. Each nation should share the burden of the immigration crisis and nations should always respect the dignity of those fleeing the brutality at home and one should also see they do not fall prey to the malicious designs of the terror groups.

Syria/Libya Crisis:

On Syria, President El-Sisi said a solution to the crisis is possible only through consensus among different stakeholders. The preservation of Syria's unity, maintenance of its institutions and broadening of the social and political base are equally important for a long lasting solution to the crisis. Peace should come through UN-led negotiation and there should be no scope for manipulation to create a zone of international or regional influence in Syria. The subversive policies of some regional actors should be stopped because it has caused greeter suffering to the region. On Libya, he said that Egypt will not allow tampering with the unity of the Libya and it is committed to work with the UN for the implementation of the Sokhairat Agreement. Further, he said the principle of zero-sum games can no longer remain a means to realize the political and strategic interests of few. Any solution in the region should be on the basis of the modern nation-state within the framework of citizenship and human rights, and not on the basis of ethnicity or sectarian divides.

The Libyan leader was thankful to the League of Arab States, the UN, OIC and the African Union for bringing the political process on track. Mr Serraj was particularly thankful to the US for playing a positive role and said that Libya would like to have strategic partnership with the US. The negative intervention of regional and global powers will not be allowed in Libya and, meanwhile, no parallel negotiation should take place because that would be a gross violation of the UNSC resolution and it would lead nowhere. Libya has made great headway in tackling the menace of terrorism and has been able to bring about peace and stability. The ISIS members fleeing from Syria and Iraq are assembling in Libya, but Libya is determined to fight them. In recent months, many people are coming back to their home towns and many nations have reopened their missions in Libya which indicates the restoration of normalcy. There is political stagnation in the country and it is primarily because of the irresponsible attitude of other parties. Libya is committed to include all factions in the political process and it believes in reconciliation and inclusive politics. The policy of negotiation and dialogue will always be

preferred over violence and conflict but the war against terror will continue in the country. The embargo against Libya must be lifted because it is costing more than US\$ one billion yearly to the Libyan exchequer. A joint effort is needed to resolve the Libyan crisis and to establish the rule of law and democracy. A unified army under civilian rule is necessary to end the crisis. On Syria, he said that Syria should strive for a consensus-based solution with the determination to uphold the unity and territorial integrity of the country.

On the Libyan front, the UNGA was informed by its foreign minister that Tunisia is playing a mediatory role along with Egypt and Algeria. He also stressed that the crisis in Yemen warrants more international support.

Algeria believes that the sovereignty and integrity of Syria must be respected while looking for a solution. Algeria is opposed to any kind of external intervention in Syria, Yemen and Libya, and that the people, who should be the final arbiters of their political fate, should be given full right to self determination. Algeria has always believed in pursuing a foreign policy which is based on the dictum of non-intervention, respect for sovereignty of nations, right to self-determination and peaceful solution to all crises.

United Nations

Egypt believes in the values of the United Nations and the purposes of its Charter and Egypt as a nation realises these values are obligatory and necessary for all. Egypt is the seventh largest contributor to peace-keeping operations and it is proud to be a founding member of the UN, and has been elected six times to the Security Council. The failure in resolving the crisis in Palestine proves the inability of both the UN and the UNSC to be effective.

Mr Serraj of Libya said that UNSC reform is must and a representative from the African continent is the need of the hour.

Morocco is an important contributor to the peace-keeping force and at present it has 60,000 troops which are deployed under UN mandate in different parts of Africa. But Morocco is worried over rising incidents of armed attack on the UN peace keepers.

On the UN, Algerian foreign minister said that world needs a comprehensive and complete reform of the system and “we assume that the beginning point of the reform should be the UNSC itself.” We can correct the historical injustice done to the African continent by giving it a place in the UNSC and introducing reform to make the UN a forum of global representation. Algeria has full faith in the spirit and objectives of the UN.

Climate Change:

Tunisia is committed to the Paris Agreement and it will reduce the emissions by 41 percent by 2030. Morocco views climate change as posing a major challenge to the entire humanity, and it had headed the 23rd session of UN-mandated climate change conference. The conference came up with the Marrakesh Declaration calling upon all members to implement the norms approved in the Paris Summit. Morocco is committed to reduce its emission by 42 percent in 2020 and 52 percent by 2030. By 2030, 15 percent of investment in Morocco will be fixed to create an economic model which would reduce the level of emission.

Sustainable Development Goals:

Tunisia is working on SDG programmes and it is equally committed to the African Union Agenda 2063 as well. For Algeria, the sustainable development programme 2030 and Addis Ababa programme for finance and development are very distinctive projects; and, collective efforts should be made to achieve the goal of both the projects.

Palestine/Israel:

Mr Serraj of Libya said that the Middle East will continue to remain tense because of the crisis in Palestine, and international community should strive for the creation of an independent state of Palestine. The Tunisian leader said that peace in Palestine centered on the prompt establishment of an independent state of Palestinian. Algeria expressed its regret and sorrow over the inability of the global community to end the occupation of Palestine by Israel. Algeria affirmed its support to the people of Palestine for the establishment of an independent state and with Jerusalem as its capital.

Morocco feels that the issue of Palestine was the first major challenge before UN immediately after its establishment, but it has miserably failed to resolve the issue. There is no hope for an early solution despite the global efforts and particularly of the US for many years. Morocco is for the establishment of state of Palestine. King Mohammad Sixth who is the head of Jerusalem Committee of OIC condemns all measures on the part of Israel to change the course of history and to tamper with the sanctity of Jerusalem.

Others:

Tunisia has made a major leap in democratisation and the promotion of state institutions, and has done great job in protecting the human rights of common people. Tunisia condemns the flagrant violations of the human rights of the Rohingya people and urged the international community to intervene.

Morocco will no more accept the view that Africa is a burden on the globe. Africa offers a global opportunity for economic progress and foreign investment and Morocco cannot allow Africa to be treated as a market for western products alone. But Africa is for the betterment of its own people and development of the continent. The decision of Morocco to come back to the fold of the African Union is not driven by any economic requirements or opportunism but is an historic decision aimed at strengthening the economic and political standing of Africa.

As far as Algeria's own progress is concerned, it occupies the second position in the continent of Africa in the field of providing justice; enjoys No. 1 position in West Africa in terms of human development; and, globally, Algeria is the sixth most secured nation. Algeria also believes that Mali and Libya should strive to resolve the crisis by following the policy of inclusion and should resolve the differences under the umbrella of the UN. Both countries should also seek the support of regional powers to preserve their unity and integrity.

From the above statements delivered by five North African leaders at the UNGA meeting, one can say that terrorism, immigrants and the issue of Palestine were the common themes among all the speakers while issue of climate changes and SDG did not attract the attention of African leaders except those of Tunisia and Algeria. Morocco saw the lingering crisis in Palestine as the biggest failure of the UN while Algeria and Libya called for representation from the African continent in the UNSC to fulfil the mandate of the UN. Many talked about the elimination of terrorism and a few saw a direct linkage between the Palestine crisis and absence of democracy on one hand and rise of terrorism on the other. Others blamed the growing usage of social media and technology for wooing the youth to terrorism. Algeria called for benefiting from the immigrant crisis and converting it into social and economic opportunities, but Libya saw the immigration onslaught as an economic and social burden. There was complete consensus on the issue of an inclusive political solution to the Syrian crisis. Egypt, in particular, was opposed to any sort of manipulation of the current instability to create a zone of international or regional influence. According to its leader, the subversive policies of some regional actors have already caused greater suffering to the region.

Significant Issues highlighted by Sub Saharan African Countries at the 72nd Annual UNGA Meeting at the UN Headquarter in New York

The 72nd session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) began on September 12, 2017 at the UN headquarters in New York. The session was centred on the theme of "Focusing on People: Striving for Peace and a Decent Life for all on a Sustainable Planet". The general debate opened on from 19-25 September 2017. Leaders from Western, North Eastern, Eastern, Southern and Central Africa took active part and delivered their addresses in the

presence of world leaders. The issues discussed ranged from relevance of UN, UN reforms, sustainable development goals, Agenda 2063, climate change, international affairs, terrorism, migration, conflict resolution, Socio economic and development issues. Based on the addresses given by the leaders of the sub Saharan African Countries, this section provides a brief overview of the five major issues discussed at the UNGA by the Sub Saharan African leaders, followed by country-wise outline.

On UN reform

All the leaders expressed their gratitude to the UN and all its organs and agencies for the critical security interventions and continued assistance to most African nations in their economic and political recovery as well as rebuilding of lives and livelihoods of most Africans. Majority of the nations supported the reform of UN and held that Africa should get its deserved place at the Security Council, and requested a permanent seat for Africa on the Security Council. They urged reforms of the UN as well as international financial institutions, and called for greater inclusiveness in the decision-making process.

On International issue of North Korea, Western Sahara and the Palestine issue

Most countries addressed the suffering of the Palestinian people and blockade of Gaza and they offered their full support to the Palestinian people and their right to statehood. They asked the UN Secretary General to vigorously pursue the idea of a two-state solution i.e. existence of both Palestine and Israel side by side in peace and harmony. The tensions in the Gaza region should immediately and collectively be addressed through the support of the international community.

Some countries expressed concern over Western Sahara stating that it remained the only Non-Self-Governing Territory in Africa and it was time for an independent, impartial plebiscite to be held under United Nations supervision.

Many delegates referred to the issue of Korean Peninsula wherein they criticised the nuclear test carried out by North Korea and termed the event as a threat to world peace and security. They urged that all necessary pressure and diplomatic efforts should be exerted on North Korea. They suggested a dialogue on the Korean Peninsula. On Cuba a few countries called for the total removal of all embargos. Besides

On Climate Change and SDGs

Specifying the major environmental challenges in Africa such as land degradation, water scarcity, natural disasters, ongoing forest degradation desertification, melting of Ice and glaciers on the highest mountains and disappearance of small island developing states, the issue of climate change was raised as a national priority by almost all Sub Saharan African states. They expressed their solidarity for speedy implementation of the Paris

Climate Change Agreement. Most countries viewed the Paris Agreement as critically important and signed its ratification. Governments have been successful in creating environmental awareness among citizens but there is still a long road ahead and more efforts have to be made to ensure environmental sustainability. They also added that natural disasters like torrential rainfall led to floods in many parts and thousands of people especially children and women were rendered homeless. Often these disasters drive home the reality of climate change and the fact that combating climate change should be an essential goal for all. Many countries underscored a linkage between climate change and migration and wanted that commitments to the Paris Agreement need to be honoured by all members.

The need for a greater commitment of their development partners was urged in order to scale-up and honour their assistance and for funding pledges made for climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation, as well as for disaster prevention efforts in developing countries.

Views on security issue

Most countries addressed the issue of rising terrorist activities in Africa which led them to seek the support of the UN and the international community. They condemned terrorism and the barbaric activities of Boko Haram, al Shabab in Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Somalia. Some countries welcomed the creation of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and looked forward to robust and productive engagement with it. They expressed their solidarity with the victims of recent terror acts in different countries and called for enhanced international collaboration to fight terrorism. Some of the African delegates suggested that significant part of their effort should be directed at combating the causes of terrorism and violent extremism, which reside inter alia in the social crisis and institutional fragility of many States.

Besides terrorism some countries drew attention to other security challenges including trafficking of drugs, persons and arms. They also expressed concern regarding borderless threats, especially maritime piracy across the world and called for international cooperation to deal with it. Nearly all countries appreciated the efforts of the UN in Africa as well as that of the United Nations Peace Building Commission and the Peace Building Support Office for their critical support. However, countries also pointed out certain gaps in peacekeeping operations that led to their unsuccessful efforts in many areas. They called for reform of both UN and peace keeping operations and their need to adapt to the asymmetric threats they currently faced.

On political, economic and social issues

On the political front, most nations placed their faith in democratic ideals and moved towards decentralisation with ownership by strong local governments providing greater space for wider and deeper community participation. They expressed their gratitude to the international community for cooperating and providing critical assistance and material support for strengthening state institutions, promoting accountability and combating corruption.

Many delegates spoke about their focus on economic development with special attention to combating poverty, reducing inequalities, fighting unemployment and improving governance. They laid focus on strengthening the agriculture sector for value addition and infrastructure development (with emphasis on roads and energy) for industrialisation.

Some countries highlighted about the weak health care system and asked the international community to assist in strengthening healthcare systems, prioritising prevention and delivery capacity at the community level. They also talked about the growing threat of public health pandemics such as ebola, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, which is a concern for whole world and should be addressed as soon as possible.

Countries also supported the cause of women across the world especially in incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse in all UN operations such as UN peacekeeping and humanitarian activities; and, wanted that more initiatives must be taken to grant dignity and promote the rights of women and girls across the world. Some countries also raised the issue of protecting interests of young people to ensure inclusive growth, recalling that the African Union had declared 2017 the Year of the Youth since the continent had the fastest growing youth population.

Issues Highlighted by countries of West and Central Africa

Country	Views on UN reform and international issues	Climate change and SDGs	Views on security issues: Terrorism/ Peace and Conflict	Economic, Political and Social issues
<p>Muhammadu Buhari, President, Nigeria</p>	<p>The President called for a comprehensive reform of the UN. He demanded, “The UN should continue to take primary leadership of the maintenance of international peace and security by providing, in a predictable and sustainable manner, adequate funding and other enablers to regional initiatives and peacekeeping operations authorised by the Security Council”.</p>	<p>Regarding achieving the goals of sustainable development and climate change, he said that Nigeria would continue to support the UN in all its efforts including the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p>	<p>The President expressed his gratitude to the, “Security Council for visiting the countries of the Lake Chad Basin to assess the security situation and humanitarian needs, and for pledging assistance to rebuild lives and livelihoods (Peace and Conflict)</p> <p>He also said, “We must collectively devise strategies and mobilise the required responses to stop fleeing</p>	<p>Placing his faith on democratic ideals, Mr. Buhari said that regional organisation ECOWAS and Nigeria together assisted Gambia in its election process. According to him, “state institutions are being strengthened to promote accountability, and to combat corruption and asset recovery. These can only be achieved through the international community cooperating and providing critical assistance and material support.” (Political)</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On the Palestine issue, the President mentioned that “the suffering of the Palestinian people and the blockade of Gaza continue. This issue should be addressed collectively. • With regard to North Korea, he said, “The most pressing threat to international peace and security today is the accelerated nuclear weapons development programme by North Korea” and urged that “all		ISIS fighters from mutating and infiltrating into the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin”. (Terrorism)	
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	necessary pressure and diplomatic efforts must be brought to bear” on North Korea.			
Mr. Alpha Condé, President, Guinea	<p>Turning to UN reform, he stressed that the Security Council should mirror the harsh realities of the world, mainly lack of African representation. To fix that injustice, the president called for the enlargement of the UN Security Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He provided support to the people of Palestine and to their right to independence. • The country was 	<p>SDG</p> <p>By focussing on the protection of human beings, Guinea is preparing itself to fight for sustainable development, justice and good governance and to deal with massive flow of refugees, large-scale migration and natural disasters.</p>	<p>The President agreed with the African Union that increased cooperation especially on the exchange of information and intelligence would enable them to fight more effectively against terrorist activities.</p> <p>The African Union would spend 25 per cent of its peace support operations budget in Africa, as authorized by the Security Council. The Union was focused on prevention, mediation, promoting dialogue and finding peaceful political solutions</p>	<p>The president said that economies should be diversified to make them more flexible through investments in areas like agriculture, infrastructure, information and communications technology (ICT), and energy and such economic integration would require the effective implementation of the Continental Free Trade Area. (Economy)</p> <p>During the ebola outbreak, Mr. Conde insisted on the deployment of two million health care professionals across Africa with the help of international community (Social)</p>

	also worried by activities on the Korean Peninsula		rather than peacekeeping operations. (Peace and Conflict)	
Ms. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President, Liberia	Expressing his gratitude to the UN, the President said, “Liberians remain grateful to the United Nations, and all of its organs and agencies, for the critical security interventions, and continued support toward Liberia's recovery and democratic aspiration, most importantly, the stabilisation and security provided to our country through the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)”.	Liberia has taken its initial steps towards the implementation of SDGs under the progressive and creative leadership of the UN.		<p>The country has, in recent years, achieved economic progress such as in the transformation of the economy -- from a growth rate of less than zero it shot up to more than 8.7 percent in 2013. that was until the health crisis. Liberia embraced a diversified economy, strengthening the agriculture sector for value addition, and infrastructure development with emphasis on roads and energy for industrialisation.</p> <p>On the political front, the country has moved towards decentralisation with ownership by strong local governments. (Economy)</p> <p>On the health front, the President said that learning, “from the tragedy of the health crisis, we are strengthening our healthcare</p>

				systems, prioritising prevention and delivering capacity at the community level.”(Social)
Macky Sall, President, Senegal	<p>Stressing the reform of rules of financial and economic governance, Mr. Sall added that Africa should get its deserved place on the Security Council. A mutually beneficial partnership should be evolved where Africa must be a stakeholder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senegal offered its full support to the Palestinian people and their right to statehood. 	<p>On climate change, M. Sall commented on the responsibility to preserve the integrity of the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>Terrorism)</p> <p>Senegal firmly condemned terrorism, but could not agree on associating Islam with violence, and called for agreed solutions to combat terrorism. The forthcoming <i>Fourth Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa</i>, would focus on Islam’s doctrinal response to violent extremism.</p> <p>The President also highlighted Senegal’s active involvement in seven peacekeeping operations, including MINUSMA, and its assistance to the G-5</p>	

			Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger) for combating terrorism. (Peace and Conflict)	
Osé Ulisses De Pina Correia E Silva, Prime Minister, Cabo Verde	Cabo Verde suggested reform of the Security Council, for reflecting the present world and called for a permanent representation of Africa in the Council.	Speedy implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement is a necessity for small island developing states like Cabo Verde. The country also conveyed its solidarity with the victims of recent hurricane in the US and Latin American nations. The Prime minister spoke of the disappearance of islands due to climate change, a grave concern for humanity. Cabo Verde has signed the	Global nature of security threats requires global and effective combat tactics.	Cabo Verde supports ideals of democracy and rule of law as a prerequisite to guarantee objective, transparent and predictable governance, both nationally and internationally. Supporting the cause of women across the world, the Prime Minister said, "I would like to emphasise the Secretary-General's initiative for establishing a pact with member-states, as well as a Circle of Leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in all UN operations -- and, above all, in the context of peacekeeping and humanitarian actions. That initiative will give

		ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change, and signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which was concluded in New York on July 7th, 2017.		greater dignity to the most vulnerable people, i.e. women and girls, and will promote their rights.
Adama Barrow, President, Gambia	<p>The President quoted Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan who said that "No reform of the United Nations is complete without reform of the Security Council".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, the President mentioned, "My Government firmly subscribes to the idea of a 	The country had proposed a new national development Plan that incorporated Sustainable Development goals and other commitments contained in Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. In Gambia, as a result of land degradation and water scarcity, the young population from rural areas head	The Gambian President mentioned that the sense of hopelessness and frustration among youth led to the rise of smugglers and extremist groups in the continent. Innocent youth were been trapped into the criminal underworld. The menace of terrorist and extremist activities and drug trafficking hampers development agenda of any nation.	Gambia has faced vast challenges to achieve economic recovery and complete reform of laws and administrative and judicial institutions. Overcoming these challenges, the country could strengthen its democratic achievements. He asserted, "we have developed a New National Development Plan in line with the transformative agenda of the new government. This development blueprint is designed to put the country back on track to economic growth and prosperity following two decades of mismanagement, corruption and widespread human rights

	<p>two-state solution; for the two peoples to live side by side in peace and harmony. We therefore call on the UN Secretary-General to vigorously pursue this formula in the interest of lasting peace.”</p>	<p>towards European countries on a dangerous route for better job prospects. Therefore, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change is critically important for the country.</p>	<p>efforts in West Africa, as also United Nations Peace Building Commission and the Peace Building Support Office for their critical support (Peace and Conflict)</p>	<p>violations. (Politics and Economy)</p>
<p>Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President, Ghana</p>	<p>With regard to reform of UN, the President asserted, “We cannot insist on peace and justice around the world, when our global organisation is not seen by the majority of its members as having a structure that is just and fair,” calling for modernisation of the Security Council and</p>			<p>Ghana went through a lot of struggle to achieve political stability. Providing employment had been the chief focus of the Ghanaian economy. Therefore, the government introduced free secondary education, offering requisite skills to the citizens.</p> <p>The President said, “This has already led to an increase in enrolment of over 90,000 children, who had entered this academic year, and would</p>

	more African representation.			otherwise have dropped out.”
Umaro Sissoco Embaló, Prime Minister, Guinea-Bissau		Mr. Embalo said that his government has been successful in creating environmental awareness among citizens especially the younger generation in a nation where 12 percent of the country’s territory was made up of ecologically protected areas. He mentioned, “We have a long road ahead of us. Much effort had to be made in order to ensure environmental sustainability as we economically exploit our natural resources”.	The Prime Minister addressed the issue of rising terrorist activities in the West African region which led them to seek support of UN and international community. He said, “ “Only if we worked together will we be able to transform our sub-region into a bastion of peace and internal security and, by extension, a bastion in the service of international security.”	On account of its wrong economic decisions in the past such as relying on imports and becoming dependent on other nations for rice, Guinea-Bissau today needs UN assistance to overcome economic challenges.

<p>Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President, Mali</p>	<p>Mali suggested pursuing the long-awaited reform of the Security Council and reiterated the case for a common African position in the UN. The President raised his voice about efforts to reduce the UN's peacekeeping budget.</p>	<p>SDG</p> <p>The President said that the Sahel G-5 focussed on the implementation of SDGs. Mali, being an agricultural country, placed high priority on effects of climate change and was committed to the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.</p>	<p>Security situation has worsened in Mali. Posing a threat to global security, the country was engulfed by trafficking of drugs, persons and arms, as well as terrorism. The President said, "They are claiming lives in the course of criminal and asymmetric attacks." Proposals to overcome such cross-border challenges, led to the establishment of Group 5.</p>	<p>The President pointed out the growing threats to public health, such as pandemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, which should be a cause for concern to whole world and should be addressed with urgency.</p>
<p>Selkou Ould Ahmed Izid Bih, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mauritania</p>	<p>According to him, restructuring of the UN especially the Security Council is an essential requirement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mauritania asked the Assembly to work towards the establishment of an independent 	<p>On climate change, the Foreign Minister underscores his country's pivotal role in investing in renewable energy sources. He also added that Mauritania acted was host to the headquarters of the</p>	<p>(Peace and conflict)</p> <p>The foreign minister highlighted Mauritania's leading role in the establishment of G-5 in the Sahel region and asserted the country's success in dealing with terrorism and extremism by paying attention to individual and</p>	<p>Mauritania had established democracy and rule of law in 2016. The country's strategic position attracted foreign investment with policies that guaranteed investors' rights.</p>

	Palestinian State	7,000-kilometre-long Great Green Wall from the Atlantic to the Red Sea and this had benefited 11 countries. Mauritania expected all nations to fulfil their commitments to the Paris Agreement.	collective rights.	
Ibrahim Yacoubou, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and Nigerians Abroad, Niger	<p>The Minister called for reform of the UN.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be more efforts to support the people of Palestine and both the UN and Security Council should be revitalised and become more representative. 	.	<p>(Terrorism)</p> <p>Mr. Yacoubou said that terrorism, trafficking and free flow of arms led to instability in the region and asked for international assistance.</p> <p>(Peace and Conflict)</p> <p>The minister pointed out certain gaps in peacekeeping operations that led to their lack of success in many areas. He</p>	

			called for reform of both the UN and peace keeping operations, which need to adapt to the asymmetric threats they are currently facing.	
Samura M. W. Kamara, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Sierra Leone	On the UN, Mr. Kamara said, “Let me particularly commend the United Nations for its significant contribution to restoring peace, security, stability and economic reconstruction in my country”. He called for the modernisation of the UNtem especially the Security Council.	The Foreign Affairs Minister added that natural disasters like floods caused by torrential rainfall resulted in thousands of people, especially children and women, being rendered homeless. He said, “These disasters are a stark reminder that climate change is real”.	Peace and Conflict Mr. Kamara stressed the role of mediation in the settlement of disputes. Mediation efforts were successful in the country with regard to prevention of armed conflicts.	On the economic front, the minister said, “We have established a more stable and regulatory environment for investment and wealth generation, which in the medium and long term will create employment opportunities for inclusive socio-economic development of the youth, the disabled, and women”. The government has also made local government and decentralisation a priority, thus providing greater space for wider and deeper community participation. (Politics) The country has diversified the

				<p>economy with focus on agriculture, fisheries, tourism, and manufacturing industries, as well as investment in education and health. Public-private partnerships, south-south, north-south and triangular cooperation have been initiated. (Economy)</p> <p>The ebola epidemic exposed fundamental weaknesses in the health care system. To him, “The fight to end, eradicate and prevent the re-occurrence of the ebola virus disease was largely achieved through strong leadership, community ownership and national resilience”. (Social)</p>
<p>Evaristo Do Espirito Santo Carvalho, Sao Tome and Principe, President</p>	<p>The President urged for reforms at the United Nations as well as other international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the</p>	<p>He regarded combating climate change as an intricate goal and should be intervene by all humanity. The The President called for</p>	<p>The President showed his concerns with regard to weakening security and humanitarian conditions in the Central African Republic. He condemned terrorism and barbaric</p>	<p>To the President, economy of the country is vulnerable. The country should implement and design alternative ways to address this issue. There is a growing tie between Sao Tome and Principe and China to address</p>

	<p>World Bank, calling for greater inclusiveness in decision-making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He suggested a dialogue on the Korean Peninsula. 	<p>implementation of the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>activities of Boko Haram in neighbouring Nigeria. (terrorism)</p>	<p>development partnership.</p>
<p>Komi Selom Klassou, Prime Minister, Togo</p>	<p>Togo supported the reform of the UN and reform of peace keeping operations, and called upon member-states to make a determined effort to conclude that process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Selom hoped that all African nations would provide assistance to resolve disputes faced by other continents. 	<p>With human security at the heart of its policy, the government has prepared to launch a new national development programme to achieve goals of sustainable development. (SDGs)</p> <p>The Prime Minister called for preservation of the planet and asked for assistance from international</p>	<p>The Prime Minister of Togo raised concerns over borderless threats. Terrorism especially maritime piracy across the world was a matter of grave concern and he called for cooperation to deal with it. Both the G-5 Sahel and the African Union (AU) were making commendable progress in tackling the threat of terror in the region.</p>	<p>The Prime Minister called for economic transformation in the region with the help of African elites and the international community. (Economy)</p> <p>The country is in process of reform of rule of law, and adopting term limits for members of parliament and the President. (Political)</p> <p>In order to deal with ebola crisis, a national health-care plan was developed. (Social)</p>

		community. (Climate Change)		
Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President, Burkina Faso	<p>The President emphasised reform of the UN as a central issue that should be dealt with conviction and calmness. Africa must be fairly represented at the Security Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Kabore criticised the nuclear test carried out by the North Korea and termed the event as a threat to world peace. 	<p>The President, recalling Burkina Faso's adoption of SDGs and subsequent entry into Paris Agreement, spoke on certain impediments to peace and prosperity.</p>	<p>Mr. Kabore viewed terrorism as a national priority and said that combating terrorism would require a sub-regional approach, focussing on economic development in the northern areas, which are most susceptible to terror attacks. He urged the international community to settle disputes in Libya, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan and Burundi.</p>	<p>Burkina Faso carried out major structural reform with focus on economic development. The country promoted participative democracy to attract investment.</p>

<p>Aurélien Agbenonci, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Benin</p>	<p>Mr. Agbenonci favoured reform of the UN especially the Security Council, which should reflect a democratic nature of representation. He also emphasised that in the list of permanent members, Africa was the only continent which was not represented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the Palestinian issue, the minister said that tensions in the region would only reduce once the Palestinian state is created. 	<p>With a focus on sustainable development, Benin has created a national roadmap for utilising the advantage of the country's demographic dividend. Efforts have been pooled to ensure health insurance and protecting the environment along with strengthening human capital. Research on the sustainable development of agriculture has been carried out. (SDGs)</p> <p>On climate change, he regarded the Paris Agreement a necessary instrument. (Climate Change</p>		
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<p>Mr. Paul Biya President, Cameroon</p>	<p>On the reform of UN, the President asked: “Is it not high time we restructured the United Nations to give more weight to Africa’s voice within a revitalised General Assembly and a Security Council that is more receptive and equitable to us?”</p>	<p>On climate change, he said, “We must, for present and future generations, save our planet. We therefore welcome the Paris Climate Agreement”. He specified two major environmental challenges in Africa i.e. the ongoing forest degradation in Central Africa and the desertification affecting Lake Chad.</p>	<p>On terrorism, the President said, “Today, no continent, no country is spared by the scourge of terrorism, the atrocities of which unfortunately have become part and parcel of daily life. The number of victims of the Boko Haram terrorist sect in the Lake Chad basin is estimated at 2000. Cameroon and other neighbouring countries are also confronted by the sect and its constantly changing methods and tactics. We appreciate the support from our partners in this struggle against barbarism in this regard”. The country is looking forward to the arrival of the high-level mission the UN Security Council to the Lake Chad region.</p>	
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<p>Mr. Faustin Archange Touadera, President, Central African Republic</p>	<p>The President called for enlargement of the Security Council to favour Africa. The President expressed his dissatisfaction with regard to staffing of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and wanted that it should be expanded to protect all citizens.</p>	<p>The President stressed on the fulfilment of the commitment made under the Paris Agreement amidst the impact of earthquakes, floods, drought, desertification and global warming.</p>	<p>On peace and security, the President said that through laborious effort, the government was successful in reaching a cessation of hostilities throughout the country. He cited the involvement of 14 armed groups in the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration efforts</p>	<p>In order to build good financial governance, the country signed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with the aim of improved management of public finance. (Economy)</p>
<p>Joseph Kabila Kabange, President, Democratic Republic of the Congo,</p>	<p>Mr. Kabila called for a re-dimensioning of UN Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).</p>	<p>The President asserted that all countries in the Congo Basin worked towards dealing with the challenges of climate change.</p>	<p>The President said that country became victim to terrorist attacks which undermined its development efforts. In many parts of the country, terrorist groups used civilians, including children, as human shields and carried out</p>	<p>On political stability, all political parties in the country signed an agreement in 30 December 2016 aimed at holding elections, stressing that for more than a year, efforts had been made to populate the electoral list, with 42 million people — of a projected 45 million voters — already registered. He said the electoral calendar and</p>

			violent attacks. (Terrorism)	timelines will be published soon but there are great challenges in organizing the elections remained, both on the logistical level, and the financial, security and legislative levels.
Hissein Brahim Taha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation, Chad	Mr. Taha requested for a permanent seat for Africa on the Security Council.	He equated climate and environmental challenges with terrorism. The minister raised concerns over drought, desertification, drying up of Lake Chad, endangering ecosystems which would lead to massive displacement. (Climate Change)	The Minister viewed the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel and Sahara countries and called for a robust mandate and joint operations by the UN Security Council, the African Union and Sahel Group 5. (Peace and Conflict)	
Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President, Equatorial	The President stressed on the country's bid for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council and said that Equatorial Guinea would utilise the		The President condemned military intervention and other violations of sovereignty and said, "War must never be used to ensure peace	

<p>Guinea</p>	<p>platform of the UN for peace.</p> <p>He also emphasised the importance of making the Council more representative and inclusive and mentioned that lack of inclusion lead to many challenges such as hunger and climate issues especially food insecurity.</p>		<p>and security.”(Peace and Conflict)</p> <p>According to him, international terrorism, human trafficking, migration and transnational crimes should be dealt with in a participative spirit and no country should police another nation in that regard.</p>	
<p>Denis Sassou Nguesso, President, Congo</p>		<p>Connecting poverty with climate change, the President called for global joint action, highlighting the need for a new paradigm and greater solidarity.</p> <p>The President underscored a linkage between climate</p>	<p>On the peace and conflict front, the President said that Congo would host the seventh summit of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region along with a high-level meeting of the follow-up mechanism on Peace, Security and Cooperation on 19 October 2017.</p>	<p>Congo recognised the rise of counterfeit medicines as a growing threat to developing countries and wanted that action should be taken in a global forum like the General Assembly to tackle this issue.</p>

		<p>change and migration and said that commitments to the Paris agreements need to be honoured by all members. He also sought support from the international community to assist Congo's initiative to establish the Congo Basin Blue Fund to protect the world's second largest "green lung" after the Amazon. (Climate Change)</p>		
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Issues Highlighted by North Eastern, East and Southern African Countries at 72nd Session of UNGA

Country	UN/ International Issues	SDG/ Agenda 2063/Climate Change	Security Issues :Terrorism & intra state Conflict	National Issues
<p>Ethiopia/ Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn,</p>	<p><u>UN</u></p> <p>The Prime Minister welcomed moves to strengthen the role of United Nations peacekeeping efforts with the aim of addressing challenges to international peace and security.</p> <p>Geopolitical tensions reminiscent of the cold war had increased, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and extremism had continued to wreak havoc across the world. These</p>	<p><u>SDGs</u></p> <p>He said though the SDGs were endorsed by all with so much optimism, the current state of affairs is far from reassuring. The global situation since has not been conducive to ensure a reasonably effective implementation of the SDGs. That is a major disappointment for all those who have been hoping to see renewed global partnership in the spirit of the 2030 agenda. He said on its part Ethiopia has fully embraced and started to register encouraging</p>	<p><u>Peace and Conflict</u></p> <p>He said that political means were important to bring an end to the crisis in South Sudan and conflicts in Syria, Yemen and the Korean Peninsula. Political will and commitment would be required for political parties to find solutions through dialogue and negotiation. However, there was also a need for stronger global-regional partnerships, and the United Nations could play</p>	<p>To achieve structural transformation and diversify its economy, the Prime minister said the government is expanding the manufacturing sector and infrastructural facilities that have continued to attract increasing amount of domestic and</p>

	<p>global challenges would require global solutions and multilateralism. The United Nations was even more indispensable as it could mobilize the world towards working on the goals of collective peace and prosperity.</p>	<p>initial results in implementing the 2030 Agenda. We have continued to invest in our people to improve their well-being</p>	<p>a leading role in forming those partnerships.</p>	<p>foreign investment. To finance its ambitious national projects, it is mobilizing domestic resources while maximizing the positive impacts of foreign assistance. Ethiopia is projected to be the fastest growing economy in the world by 2017.</p>
<p>Sudan/Mr Ibrahim Ahmed Abdelaziz Ghandour, Minister for Foreign Affairs</p>	<p><u>UN</u></p> <p>He expressed Sudan's deep concern at the lack of strict action by relevant United Nations entities and the international community vis-à-vis rebel groups operating from Libya and</p>		<p><u>Peace and Conflict</u></p> <p>Implementation of an exit strategy for the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), as set out in Security Council resolution 2363 (2017), demonstrated</p>	

	<p>South Sudan.</p> <p>He said Sudan was committed to working with IGAD and the African Union towards peace and security in South Sudan and to help address the humanitarian crisis there.</p>		<p>that Sudan had turned the page on conflict and embarked on a new era of peace and stability.</p> <p>It hoped to benefit from the United Nations Peace building Fund, as well as the World Bank and its mechanisms as its Government implemented the results of national dialogue and encouraged remaining armed groups to join the quest for peace,</p> <p>Further the Foreign Minister said that Sudan opposed the politicization of international justice and considered the International Criminal Court to be an organization that manipulated the law</p>	
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			<p>for political objectives.</p> <p><u>Non Traditional Security issues</u></p> <p>He emphasized the Government's efforts to fight terrorism, human trafficking, drug trafficking and cybercrime, as well as its assistance to 3 million refugees from neighbouring countries and beyond.</p>	
<p>South Sudan/ Vice President, Taban Deng Gai</p>	<p>He urged the international community to make progress on such critical issues as Security Council reform, tackling climate change and ensuring that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea complied fully with all Council resolutions on denuclearization.</p>		<p><u>Peace and Security</u></p> <p>The Vice President said that attaining peace in South Sudan required collective efforts, adding that its Transitional Government of National Unity had embraced the full implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in</p>	<p>South Sudan enjoyed cordial relations with its neighbours including Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda, with those countries hosting South Sudanese</p>

			<p>South Sudan as the only instrument pivotal to achieving those end.</p> <p>Noting that it was also working to implement key transitional security arrangements, such as security sector reform and cantonment of forces, he said several grass-roots inter communal peace processes were also under way with a focus on women and youth.</p> <p>On Abyei, he reaffirmed the Government's willingness and readiness to implement the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel's 2012 proposal, and hoped both South Sudan and Sudan would soon resume</p>	<p>refugees, providing corridors for humanitarian access and supporting South Sudan's development.</p>
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			cooperation on its implementation. The Government was also cooperating with the Regional Protection Force associated with UNMISS, and would work towards its smooth operationalization.	
Somalia/ Mr Hassan Ali Khairi, Prime Minister		<p><u>Climate Change & Environment</u></p> <p>Currently, the humanitarian situation of millions of Somalis was fragile due to drought and the threat of famine. Like other countries at the receiving end of climate change, Somalia lacked the resources to tackle that ever-growing problem. He urged all Member States to improve upon the Paris Agreement and to make long-term investment in his country's infrastructure, water conservation, innovative food and livestock production and job creation.</p>	<p><u>Terrorism</u></p> <p>He said Unity in addressing the terrorism was critical, calling for redoubled military interventions against ISIL and Al-Qaida. In Somalia, significant strides had been made to weaken Al-Shabaab, he said, thanking the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for its sacrifice and solidarity.</p> <p>He said to ensure the sustainability of those gains, Somalia was strengthening its national</p>	<p>Prime Minister of Somalia said that after years of war, famine, poverty and displacement, his country was on the rise and determined to stay the course. It aimed to contribute to the progress of its region, its continent and the world. Its people have embraced a new dawn, he said, emphasizing</p>

			<p>security forces, adding that the Government would work with the Security Council and others on a road map towards the lifting of the arms embargo.</p>	<p>that debt relief would help unlock concessional financing, attract foreign investment and support reform efforts.</p> <p>He underscored significant steps Somalia was taking to increase the participation of women and youth in decision-making.</p> <p>The Government was seeking ways to harmonize traditional dispute resolution with the justice system in a way that respected</p>
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				human rights.
<p>Kenya/Ms. Amina Chawahir Mohamed, Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Trade</p>	<p><u>UN</u></p> <p>Ms Amina said Kenya supported United Nations reform, and called for Africa’s representation in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of the Security Council, as outlined in the Common African Position.</p>	<p><u>SDG</u></p> <p>She acknowledged the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals. Outlined Kenya’s commitment to transform the 2030 Agenda into action. Stepped up efforts to achieve the Goals, notably by offering free maternal health care across the country. The Government together with the United Nations had established a Sustainable Development Goal platform to accelerate their attainment in a process that also involved development partners, the private sector and civil society. It intended to use the platform to pave the way for universal health care by 2021.</p> <p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>On climate change she said in East Africa it had cost Kenya’s economy 3 per cent of its annual</p>	<p><u>Terrorism</u></p> <p>She welcomed the creation of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, and looked forward to robust and productive engagement with it. Kenya’s priorities targeted “counter-engagement in radicalization clusters” disengagement of defectors, strengthened intelligence and law enforcement, and deploying whole of-Government approaches and socioeconomic tools in line with global strategy</p>	

		<p>GDP. The need to address that phenomenon was not a choice but an imperative. Commended the United Nations in its efforts to upgrade United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to enable it to fulfill its mandate. The United Nations Environment Assembly had helped the world refocus on the planet</p>		
<p>Uganda/ Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President</p>	<p><u>North Korea</u></p> <p>On the dangerous situation on the Korean Peninsula, where very dangerous instruments of mass extermination are paraded around by the two contending sides, President Museveni asked who would lose if North Korea and South Korea, whose kith and kin were left alone to discuss their re-unification? A unified Korea would be a very strong nation. Why do</p>		<p><u>Peace and Conflict</u></p> <p>On the issue of external Forces interference in Africa, President Museveni said that Africa had encountered experiences of division, adding that the continent was still striving to prevent both foreign and local actors from dividing its peoples. Uganda, for its part, had accommodated many African refugees because of its “conscious ideological position,” he</p>	

	<p>some actors fear strong nations in the world? Why should the Koreans themselves (North and South) allow external forces to continue to divide them? On the small issue of enforcing sanctions against North Korea, Mr Museveni said Uganda is in compliance. They do not have to trade with North Korea. They are, however, grateful that, in the past, the North Koreans helped us to build our tank forces</p>		<p>said, adding that “we only fight traitors”.</p>	
<p>Burundi/ Mr. Alain Aimé Nyamitwe, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation</p>	<p><u>UN</u></p> <p>Mr Nyamitwe thanked the Security Council for reaffirming, through its resolutions and presidential statements, respect for the country’s sovereignty. Non-interference in internal affairs, and respect for the territorial integrity and</p>	<p><u>SDG</u></p> <p>He said for his country, achieving the 2030 Agenda and the Vision Burundi 2025 programme depended on cooperation from friendly States and other international partners. Unfortunately, European Union sanctions on Burundi were depriving it of</p>	<p><u>Migration and Displacement</u></p> <p>He said joint efforts must be made to tackle the root causes of population displacement, particularly by young people, from the South to the North, The reasons underlying apocalyptic scenes on the</p>	

	<p>sovereignty of States, were pillars of an equitable international system. He said they conformed to the principles of the United Nations Charter and they were non-negotiable.</p> <p><u>UNSC Reforms</u></p> <p>Concerning United Nations reform, he said it was time to correct past injustices and permit the equitable participation of all continents on the Security Council.</p> <p><u>International Issues</u></p> <p>He said on Sanctions imposed unilaterally on developing States, particularly those in Africa, must be prohibited, as they perpetrated traditional</p>	<p>considerable resources.</p> <p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>No State could shirk their responsibility to implement their commitments under the Paris Agreement, regardless of their size or place on the map.</p>	<p>Mediterranean must be understood, he said, expressing regret that such migration was being accompanied by a resurgence of racism.</p> <p>On refugees from Burundi, he reiterated his Government's call for them to return, thanked the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for helping to facilitate returns, but called for some UNHCR staff to refrain from indoctrinating some refugees against returning</p>	
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	injustices and violated the sacred principle of sovereignty.			
Rwanda/ President Mr Paul Kagame	<p>UN</p> <p>The United Nations sets the global agenda on key policy issues, from development to women's rights and channels billions of dollars in humanitarian assistance which are signs of an organisation that is both relevant, and, in many cases, competent. Yet there was a sense that the United Nations is not meeting our needs and expectations.</p> <p>To be truly effective at delivering a "decent life for all", the United Nations must treat all the people it serves with impartiality and respect, and it must be a good steward of the funds entrusted to it.</p>	<p><u>SDG/ Agenda 2063</u></p> <p>Rwanda shared the common objective of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and Africa's Agenda 2063, and was working to enhance women's empowerment.</p> <p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>He said that Canada and Rwanda, together with other stakeholders, are working to raise awareness of the tremendous impact that we can have, on ratifying and implementing the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. That instrument was among the most important actions a country could take to tackle climate change and</p>	<p>The African Union and the United Nations are already good partners in peacekeeping, and Rwanda is proud to have forces serving under both flags.</p>	

	<p>The reform spirit, that has started to take root in both the United Nations and the African Union, is encouraging, and Rwanda is happy to be associated with both.</p>	<p>reaffirm commitment to the Paris Agreement. Fewer than 15 additional ratifications are needed, in order for the Kigali Amendment to come into force, in 2019</p>		
<p>Tanzania / Dr. Augustine p. Mahiga), Minister for Foreign Affairs</p>	<p><u>Palestine issue</u></p> <p>Support the two-state solution living side by side in peaceful co-existence. To that end, the elements of a viable State of Palestine must be ensured and respected</p> <p><u>Cuba</u></p> <p>Tanzania continues to call for the total removal of all embargos on Cuba.</p> <p><u>North Korea</u></p> <p>Tanzania supports all the relevant resolutions of the</p>	<p><u>SDGs</u></p> <p>Tanzania has integrated the SDGs into the Second Phase of the Five Year Development Plan 2016-2021 focusing on industrialization. In collaboration with development partners and other stakeholders, frameworks for implementing the SDGs have been developed which include communication and dissemination strategies on SDGs to make the goals understood to everyone.. Sensitisation workshops on SDGs are also being conducted to regional administrations and</p>	<p>Need to invest more on conflict prevention, resolution and mediation efforts by addressing the root causes, precipitating and triggering factors to conflicts.</p> <p>Tanzania has been actively participating in regional and international peace initiatives including the on-going Burundi peace process, an East African Community initiative.</p> <p>Urge the international community to extend both logistical and financial</p>	<p>Tanzania has set a target growth from an average of 7 percent in 2015 to 10 percent by 2020 in order to reach a middle income status by 2025.</p>

	<p>Security Council on the nuclear weapons trends in the DPRK, calls for de-escalation of the political warfare and the renewal of the dialogue under the auspices of the six parties initiative.</p> <p><u>UN Reforms</u></p> <p>The reforms of the United Nations to make the Organization more efficient and relevant to cope with the new trends and challenges must be continuous and progressive. The delay in the reforms of the Security Council is testing the political will of the key players on this matter;</p>	<p>local government authorities so that the goals can be mainstreamed in their local plans and budgets in order to directly affect the ordinary people who are the main focus of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>Climate change has become an existential challenge to the entire planet earth. In Tanzania it is disheartening to witness the epic snows and glaciers of Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa melting fast.</p> <p>To honour our joint efforts that gave birth to the Paris Agreement under the leadership of France, we should implement in letter and spirit all of its articles.” Assistance to developing countries should go beyond mere mitigation measures and target adaptation</p>	<p>support to DRC to complete the registration of voter's register and carry out expeditiously the planned elections.</p>	
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		measures with built in green technologies to control carbon emissions from the outset.		
Zambia /President Mr Edgar ChagwaLungu	<p><u>UNSC Reforms</u></p> <p>Reform of the Security Council to make it more representative, democratic and accountable to all member states, irrespective of status, is essential for its decisions to be accepted by the whole international community. Given that Africa constitutes the second largest bloc of the UN membership, proposals to reform the security council should heed Africa's legitimate call.</p>	<p><u>SDG & Agenda 2063</u></p> <p>Zambia has integrated into the national development planning framework, the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, the African Union Agenda 2063 and all other global and regional developmental initiatives.</p> <p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>Zambia is expectant that the 23rd conference of state parties (cop 23) on climate change will, inter alia; establish mechanisms for the implementation of the Paris agreement on climate change. All stakeholders to ensure that the green climate fund (gcf) is adequately funded.</p>	<p><u>Terrorism</u></p> <p>The increasing acts of terrorism around the world must be condemned by all peace loving nations. Zambia stands in solidarity with the victims of recent terror acts in different countries and further stands ready for enhanced international collaboration to fight terrorism.</p> <p><u>Peace and Conflict</u></p> <p>Zambia has continued to render its support for those still afflicted by conflict through its membership in the African union Peace</p>	

		Zambia needs assistance to enhance her capacity in key adaptive areas like scientific research, early warning, and rapid response to address the adverse effects of climate change. It calls for the transfer of appropriate technologies to help cope with the negative impact of climate change.	and Security Council. UN commitment should not be limited to preventing conflict, but should go further to seek the protection of the victims of conflict, including the displaced persons..	
Zimbabwe/ President MrRobert Mugabe	<u>UNSC Reforms</u> For Africa, the current antiquated system perpetuates a historic injustice, one that can never ever be justified today. It is for this reason that I reiterate my country's unflinching support for the African Common Position on Security Council reform, commonly known as the Ezulwini Consensus	<u>SDG-2030 Agenda</u> The current system is inherently structured to enrich a few and impoverish the many. It cannot, therefore, deliver on a key aspiration and watchword objective of the 2030 Agenda, that of leaving no-one behind. <u>Climate Change</u> Climate change is global. “We cannot remain silent when a major economic power in the	<u>Peace and Conflict</u> President Mugabe said according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, global military expenditure in 2016 amounted to approximately 1.6 Trillion dollars. Mega investments in ever more lethal weapons and more sophisticated war machinery have not resulted in greater peace or	

		<p>world, or any other state for that matter, decides to abandon the Paris Climate Change Agreement, and thus put countries at further risk of the effects of climate change . It is vital that we all play our part, in keeping with the provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change”,</p>	<p>security. Instead, we have witnessed heart rending suffering and misery and increased mass movements of people fleeing wars and armed conflicts. This trend, should be halted, for the benefit of humanity.</p>	
<p>Angola /Mr Ismael Abraão Gaspar Martins ,Permanent Representative to the UN</p>	<p><u>UN Reforms</u></p> <p>Reiterated support to the Secretary-General's proposals for reforms with a view to revitalizing and rationalizing the resources of the Organization. Reiterated the need to reform the Security Council in order to have it reflect the reality of the contemporary world. Its current composition is outdated and needs to be urgently reformed. In line with the African position represented in the Ezwilini</p>	<p><u>SDG</u></p> <p>We hope that its implementation in the next 13 years will substantially reduce the major social deficiencies affecting developing nations. The economic and financial difficulties affecting most countries have had a negative impact on the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. International efforts aimed at securing the critical financial resources, should be guided by the Addis Ababa</p>	<p><u>Peace and Security</u></p> <p>Angola's attachment to multilateralism is strongly emphasized in its role in solving problems which threaten peace and security on the African continent, particularly in the Great Lakes Region.</p> <p>In the context of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (CIRGL), Angola has been leading diplomatic efforts with its regional and</p>	<p>The newly-elected Government would focus on economic development with special attention to combating poverty, reducing inequalities, fighting unemployment and improving governance</p>

	<p>consensus, Angola restated the need to increase the number of Permanent Members to ensure a fair geographical balance. It is unfair that the African continent, which accounts to almost 40% of the member states of the United Nations, is not represented among the Permanent Members in the main body in charge of maintaining peace and security in the world.</p>	<p>Agenda on Financing, adopted in 2015.</p> <p>The Republic of Angola is strongly engaged in achieving the 17 Goals of this Agenda, despite an adverse global economic environment.</p> <p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>The Paris Agreement is extremely important in the development of enabling tools for protecting the right to development and strengthening resilience in developing countries. Angola views this Agreement as a historic commitment, an encouragement to contain global warming and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>international partners to find a lasting political solution capable of guaranteeing security, stability, economic and social development, and democracy for the countries and peoples of the region.</p> <p><u>Terrorism</u></p> <p>The international community's collective action under the aegis of the United Nations should also cover the fight against terrorism. In this fight, a significant part of our effort should be directed at combating the causes of terrorism and violent extremism, which reside inter alia in the social crisis and institutional fragility of many States. The case of Libya is the blatant</p>	
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			<p>example of this reality.</p> <p>Angola fully supports the efforts of the African Union, with the assistance of its international partners, to confront this scourge.</p>	
<p>Mozambique/ Mr António Gumende, Permanent Representative to the UN</p>	<p><u>UN</u></p> <p>A robust and efficient United Nations system, and its partnerships with regional bodies, could play a catalytic role in accelerating national development and strengthening democratic political systems.</p> <p><u>UNSC reforms</u></p> <p>We need to urgently accelerate the reform of the Security Council, another element that will contribute to reaffirm the role of the United Nations in the search</p>	<p><u>SDG</u></p> <p>Only a strong and vibrant UN system can ensure that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals will deliver societies that are more inclusive, peaceful and prosperous without compromising on the very existence of our planet.</p> <p>Mozambique reaffirms its unequivocal commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>We have aligned our national development agenda to include</p>	<p><u>Peace and Stability</u></p> <p>Durable peace and stability ranks as an overarching priority in our national agenda, as it is a crucial factor for the development and for the promotion of lasting human security in its broadest sense.</p> <p>We believe that mechanisms that promote peace and prosperity should also constitute a</p>	

	<p>for sustainable solutions for the peace and security challenges facing the humanity.</p> <p>Lack of consensus among Security Council members to initiate text-based negotiations on reforming that body constrained Member States' ability to enhance its credibility by making it more representative,</p> <p><u>North Korea</u></p> <p>As a country with a Constitution that values the principle of universal disarmament of all states and the negotiated solutions of international conflicts, as well as the peaceful use of nuclear energy, Mozambique notes with great concern the escalation of tension and the</p>	<p>the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as reflected in the five pillars of the national Five Year Program namely: " Consolidating national unity, peace and sovereignty; " Developing human and social capita!; " Promoting employment, productivity and competitiveness; " Developing economic and social infrastructures; and " Ensuring sustainable and transparent management of natural resources and the environment.</p> <p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>There is need for a greater commitment of our development partners to scale-up and honour their assistance and for funding pledges made for climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation, as well as for disaster</p>	<p>strong platform of action aimed at fostering dialogue among civilizations, an unquestionable tool in the promotion of a culture of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and sustainable world.</p> <p>it is our hope that the ongoing peace initiatives as well as the measures to curb the recruitment and finance of terrorist groups result in opportunities to further promote peace and development, as well as to strengthen human rights and to build more inclusive societies.</p>	
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	<p>risk of nuclear confrontation that is unfolding in the Korean Peninsula. The catastrophic impact of a nuclear conflict demands a more restrained approach based on dialogue, skilful diplomacy and the political will to de-escalate and to fully comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions.</p> <p><u>Western Sahara</u></p> <p>The lack of progress in the decolonization of Western Sahara, the sole African country still to exercise the right to self-determination continues to be a cause for grave concern to Mozambique.</p> <p><u>Israel - Palestine</u></p> <p>The principle of self-determination and right of freedom should also be a</p>	<p>prevention efforts in developing countries.</p> <p>We reaffirm the importance of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as an instrument to strengthen the much needed partnerships for adaptation and mitigation measures.</p>		
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	<p>reality for the Palestinian people. We believe that the solution relies in the two states principle, Palestine and Israel coexisting side by side, in peace and security</p>			
<p>Malawi/Mr Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of Malawi,</p>	<p><u>UN Reforms</u></p> <p>Africa should be represented on the Security Council. “The United Nations could no longer claim to lead in democracy while sidelining a representation of 1.2 billion people from Africa,” he affirmed.</p> <p><u>Korean Peninsula</u></p> <p>Korean Peninsula, he said Malawi categorically disapproved of the spread of ballistic missile technology, which should not be tolerated by any Member States.</p>	<p><u>SDG</u></p> <p>The adoption of Agenda 2030 by the UN reflects our global resolve to address the most pressing challenges in the spirit of sustainable human collaboration. Our unity among nations is imperative.</p> <p>No human community can take off socioeconomically without empowering its people to drive their own development agenda,” he emphasized. “That is why I underline the importance of investing in human capital.”</p>	<p><u>Terrorism & Conflict</u></p> <p>Terrorism and conflict hinder progress and make the world live in a state of fear.” He reaffirmed his country’s commitment to stand against all forms of terrorism. Malawi had done its part for the maintenance of peace and security by taking part in United Nations and African Union peacebuilding operations, he noted. “We believe that in protecting your neighbours, you protect yourselves.”</p>	<p>He said there is a need to focus on people in order to realize inclusive growth. He highlighted four segments of society whose interests deserved attention. First, the empowerment of women should be included in development efforts, Malawi had made progress on protecting the rights of women</p>

				<p>and girls,</p> <p>He stated that the interests of young people must also be protected to ensure inclusive growth, recalling that the African Union had declared 2017 the Year of the Youth since the continent had the fastest growing youth population.</p> <p>Malawi had increased access to tertiary education and introduced programmes to provide technical and entrepreneurial education to youth lacking</p>
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				<p>opportunities to attend university.</p> <p>Protecting the interests of agrarian communities was also crucial because their livelihoods had been affected by climate change, he continued, noting that 85 per cent of Malawi's population were from agrarian communities and had borne the brunt.</p>
<p>Botswana/</p> <p>Mr Mokgweetsi e. K. Hasisi, the</p>	<p><u>UN</u></p> <p>Mr Massi, Vice-President of <u>Botswana</u> said despite its imperfections, the United</p>	<p><u>SDG 2030 Agenda</u></p> <p>Recognizing the importance of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, he said Botswana</p>	<p><u>Terrorism</u></p> <p>Strongly condemning terrorism, violent extremism and racial</p>	<p><u>Economic and Development</u></p> <p>Citing gains, he said the number</p>

<p>Vice President of the Republic of Botswana</p>	<p>Nations remains the only universal organization that has the moral authority and legitimacy to seek global solutions to the challenges we face.</p> <p><u>Syria</u></p> <p>On Syria he said the political, security and humanitarian situation in Syria was catastrophic, and he expressed disappointment in the Security Council's failure to take decisive action, suggesting that the General Assembly use its moral power amid such paralysis. He supported referral of the situation to the International Criminal Court to ensure those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity be held accountable</p>	<p>had held several multi-stakeholder consultations in the formulation of both its national development plan for 2017-2023, and "Vision 2036" plan for 2017-2036, from a belief that national priorities must reflect people's needs. Those frameworks sought to accelerate development by addressing education, health care, housing, poverty, income inequality, gender inequality and unemployment</p> <p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>On climate change, he urged all countries, including the United States, to protect the integrity of the Paris Agreement, and welcomed the convening of the first-ever Ocean Conference, reiterating that, although landlocked, Botswana had interest in the ocean environment and marine</p>	<p>intolerance, he reaffirmed Botswana's commitment to international instruments banning weapons of mass destruction. Botswana valued the opportunity to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights through its membership to the Human Rights Council over two consecutive terms.</p>	<p>of people living in abject poverty or below \$1.25 per day had fallen from 4.5 per cent in 2002 and 2003 to 6.4 per cent in 2009 and 2010.</p> <p>He said Botswana had invested 25 per cent of its annual budget in education and skills development, and implemented an economic stimulus programme, achievements it had shared this year during its high-level political forum voluntary national review.</p>
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	<p><u>North Korea</u></p> <p>He expressed concern that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had contravened international law and United Nations resolutions, and called for swift enforcement of the United Nations Charter. "Regime change must be brought about in order to remove once and for all this everlasting threat to peace in that region," he declared.</p> <p><u>Western Sahara</u></p> <p>It was "reprehensible" that Western Sahara remained the only Non-Self-Governing Territory in Africa and it was time for an independent, impartial plebiscite to be held under United Nations supervision.</p>	resources.		
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	<p><u>Palestine</u></p> <p>He supported Palestinians in their struggle for sovereignty and independent statehood, announcing that Botswana established diplomatic relations with Palestine on 8 March.</p>			
<p>South Africa/ Mr Jacob Zuma</p>	<p><u>Global Order</u></p> <p>Mr Zuma, President of <u>South Africa</u>, said the current socioeconomic world order structure was deepening the divide between the global North and global South. Unequal and unjust economic power relations were sharply manifested in Africa.</p> <p>Rich in mineral resources, the region had the highest number of least developed countries.</p>		<p><u>Conflict Resolution</u></p> <p>He welcomed support to resolve conflicts through the promotion of the African Union’s “African solutions to African problems and challenges” through a “goal of silencing the guns by 2020” as contained in the African Union’s Agenda 2063 action plan.</p> <p>He welcomed support to resolve conflicts through</p>	

	<p><u>UNSC Reforms</u></p> <p>The UN Security Council is paralysed and is unable to carry out its Charter responsibilities for maintenance of International Peace and Security. South Africa remain steadfast in its call for the reform of this critical organ of the United Nations.</p> <p><u>Libya and Syria Crisis</u></p> <p>He noted that little effort had been made by the African Union to promote stability, with the majority of countries focused on the migrant crisis in Europe. The war in Libya contributed a great deal to the destabilisation of the SAHEL region and all the way to Central Africa, creating a corridor for illicit trafficking</p>		<p>the promotion of the African Union’s “African solutions to African problems and challenges” through a “goal of silencing the guns by 2020” as contained in the African Union’s Agenda 2063 action plan.</p> <p><u>Illicit Financial Flows, Money laundering/ Tax Evasion</u></p> <p>Although developed countries fuelled development from the African continent’s resources, a significant “chunk” was lost to illicit financial outflows. Money laundering, tax evasion and avoidance, corruption, and transfer pricing by multinational companies remained some of the</p>	
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in arms as well as terrorist activities and terrorist activities. Had earlier warnings been heeded, the supply of arms to Libya and Syria would have been avoided and the world would have greater peace today. He called for an immediate resolution of those conflicts, while cautioning against the imposition of foreign solutions through military means.

North Korea

He said that “we continue with our call for calm in the Korean Peninsula. “He called for the end of the nuclear weapons program, as “there are no safe hands for weapons of mass destruction”. The only viable solution was their total elimination, as expressed in the United

biggest challenges to economic growth and stability. He appealed to Member States, particularly developed countries and the United Nations, to contribute to a fair global economic environment and to eradicate illicit financial flows.

Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Palestine and Western Sahara

He said that the world has preached a two-state solution to the situation in Palestine, yet we have watched the expansion of illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. He appealed the General Assembly that the same resolve shown in supporting the South African struggle for liberation should be shown towards ending the Apartheid practices against the people of Palestine. He reminded the General Assembly that the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-

	determination continues to be undermined, challenged and denied			
Seychelles/ Danny Faure, President	/	<p><u>SDG 2030 Agenda</u></p> <p>In Seychelles, the private sector, civil society, non-governmental organizations and parliamentarians had joined with the public sector in a national effort to integrate the global development agenda into the national budget and development plans. Further efforts were under way to integrate the 2030 Agenda with the African Union Agenda 2063 and the Samoa Pathway for small island developing States.</p> <p><u>Climate Change</u></p> <p>An inclusive approach was required for implementation of the Paris Agreement, he said, stressing that all stakeholders</p>		<p>He said that, for the first time in its history, Seychelles was experiencing a system of political cohabitation, whereby he served as President and head of the Government's executive branch, and worked with a legislature dominated by the opposition. That dynamic, characterized by dialogue and consultation, worked well.</p>

must be involved if the international community was to drastically scale up its climate action. The world could not afford to renege on the collective commitment to “travel the moral path” for the sake of humanity.

Last year Seychelles reached an agreement with the Paris Club as well as others on a first-of-its-kind US\$21 million debt-for-adaptation swap to protect 30% of our 1.37-million-square-kilometre exclusive economic zone, partly as ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change. The country also aimed to launch the world's first blue bonds by the end of this year to raise another US\$15 million for sustainable fishing practices in our waters. Both these measures seek to establish innovative sources of financing to implement sustainable development goal 14 on oceans and seas and other interlinked

Most importantly, the relationship was based on mutual respect. The Government was being reshaped to be more inclusive, with an emphasis on the empowerment of citizens, especially youth.

		SDGs as part of developing the Seychelles blue economy.		
Mauritius/Pra vind Kumar Jugnauth, Prime Minister	<u>UN</u> Prime Minister of <u>Mauritius</u> , expressed the need for reform of the Security Council so that it reflected the enlarged membership of the Organization. In particular, he said Mauritius fully supports the EzulwinI Consensus and Africa's aspiration for a more pronounced role in the Security Council..He said Mauritius fully supports the EzulwinI Consensus and Africa's aspiration for a more pronounced role in the Security Council. He also supported India's aspiration for a seat on the Council as well as the small island developing States ambition for a non-permanent seat.	<u>SDG and Agenda 2063</u> He said that his country valued the importance of its integration within Africa and that the continent had the potential of becoming a beacon for sustainable development. Agenda 2063, along with the 2030 Agenda, provided a strategy for development that was people-driven and respected the rule of law, In that regard, a mechanism had been established in Mauritius for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and his country would present its voluntary national review in 2018. <u>Climate Change</u> He said Climate Change is	<u>Terrorism</u> He said terrorism continues to claim innocent lives and undermines the sovereignty of States. He welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. <u>Peace and Conflict</u> On the issue of the Chagos Archipelago, he said Mauritius was hopeful that the International Court of Justice would allow his country to move forward, including with an appropriate programme in favour of the displaced inhabitants. He added that he had no intention of seeking the disruption of	<u>Economic Development</u> Mauritius, with its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of over 2.3 million square kilometres, is a large ocean state. This is why his government has developed an Ocean Strategy comprising of fisheries, tourism, deep ocean water applications as well as resource exploration and exploitation. He called on its partners to assist in implementing

	<p>Denuclearization</p> <p>Recalling that Mauritius voted in favour of the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, he called for a complete denuclearization of the world and urged those involved in potential conflicts to engage in dialogue instead of belligerent posturing.</p> <p>Myanmar</p> <p>He also called for restraint in Myanmar and appealed for the provision of humanitarian assistance to those affected by violence and the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on the Rakhine State.</p>	<p>central and critical to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Mitigating the effects of Climate Change and effectively implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction will require substantial effort and resources, especially for SIDS. While he welcomed the generous pledges made so far, including the creation of the Green Climate Fund, he stressed on the need to streamline and simplify the procedures for SIDS to access these funds, especially in the light of the recent events.</p> <p>Classification as a 'Middle Income Country' makes SIDS like Mauritius ineligible for most of the Official Development Assistance (ODA) and concessional funding. MICs are often victims of their success in graduating from LDC status and run the risk of getting stuck in</p>	<p>the security arrangements currently in place in Diego Garcia and reaffirmed the country's willingness to enter into a renewable lease with the United States to allow such arrangements to be kept in place. Completing decolonization would provide legality and certainty. With regards to Tromelin Island, he said that his nation appreciated the progress made with France.</p>	<p>this strategy .</p>
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	<u>Palestine Conflict</u> He supported the two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict	the middle income trap.		
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**Dr. Nivedita Ray, Director Research, ICWA, Dr Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui and Dr Chayanika Deka , Research Fellows, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi.*

Disclaimer: The views expressed are that of the Researcher and not of the Council.