

DAR ES SALAAM DECLARATION

ON

AFRICA HEADS OF STATE HUMAN CAPITAL SUMMIT, 26th JULY 2023

Investing in People for Building a High-productivity, Inclusive, Resilient Economy

PREAMBLE

1. We, the Heads of State and Governments (of the countries listed in the annex), hosted by the Government of Tanzania, met in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania on 26th July 2023 for the Africa Heads of State Human Capital Summit.
2. We thank Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, for championing this cause and hosting this important summit to discuss policy priorities, challenges, important objectives, and commitments to invest in our people, specifically on learning, skills, health, and innovation to fully realize the demographic dividend of our nations.
3. We recognise and appreciate the support of the World Bank and other development partners of our countries on the implementation of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, to realise improved well-being of our people.
4. We welcome the World Bank Group's engagement model for promoting a collaborative spirit manifested by understanding and sharing challenges to better support governments in the implementation of their national strategies, through financing instruments adapted to their needs, as demonstrated through the Abidjan initiative. We also recognize the important role existing partnerships play in supporting countries to catalyze more financing for human capital outcomes to further support the partnership.
5. We note with concern the negative impacts caused by climate change, COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia Ukraine war on human capital development, particularly in African countries.

6. We acknowledge with appreciation the efforts being made by many African governments towards improving the state of human development, including through increasing national budgetary allocation to education, health, food security and nutrition.

7. **We agree to consider** the “Dar es Salaam Declaration on Africa Heads of State Human Capital Summit” in prioritizing government and development partners’ interventions in the coming years on Human Capital Development.

PRIORITIES ON INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL

Recognizing that priorities on investing in and protecting human capital will be critical to rebuilding a high-productivity, inclusive, and more resilient economy.

8. **Affirming**, that human capital includes *inter alia* assets such as education, skills, health, nutrition, clean and safe water and gender equality which are crucial for development in African countries and play a pivotal role in the transformation of African economies.

9. **Acknowledging**, that investment in people is critical for building sustainable, resilient, and inclusive growth in Africa, and that investments in human capital for improved social and economic outcomes in future through quality education, skills and jobs, health care, and nutrition are vital to ending extreme poverty and creating more inclusive societies.

10. **Recognizing**, that sub-Saharan Africa scores the lowest of all the world’s regions on the World Bank’s Human Capital Index, a measurement that quantifies the contribution of health and education to the productivity of the next generation of workers.

11. **Further recognizing**, that although there are improved results in households’ access to health care, school enrolment, amenities and tools to enhance quality of life - the goal of human capital and quality of life still lags significantly behind, especially in the context of multi-crises facing the world.

12. **Appreciating** that developing human capital in Africa requires massive coordinated planning and financing as well as resolute effort to strengthen the quantity, efficiency, and impact of investments in people.

13. **Mindful** of the urgent need to address development policy reforms and institutional innovation with an emphasis on stronger implementation, that would enable Africa's young people to grow up with optimal health and equipped with the right knowledge, skills and competence to compete in the digital global economy.

14. **Thus, noting** the need to increase financing for implementation of regional and country-tailored policy action plans and cross-country learning.

15. **Acknowledging**, the importance of tackling problems related to human capital development to improve the capability of the continent, address human capital development challenges and leverage the opportunities they present.

To do this, we:

16. **Commit to Pursue** the Africa Union 2063 Agenda, with a renewed emphasis on harnessing our Demographic Dividend through specific focus on Education, Decent Work and Jobs, Social Security and Protection, Health and Nutrition, as well as Women and Youth empowerment.

17. Specifically, we pledge to:

a) **Prioritize Education and Skills Development:** Recognizing that quality education and skills development are essential foundations for human capital development, we commit to increasing investments in education systems, from early childhood education to tertiary and vocational training, to ensure equitable access and improved learning outcomes. We will prioritize the development of foundational skills and relevant skills for the future of work, entrepreneurship, and innovation, fostering a culture of lifelong learning. **Thus, we commit to increasing accessibility, affordability and to ensure quality education as well as reducing learning poverty in our countries by at least a quarter by 2030 and improving literacy rates to reach 75% by 2030.**

b) **Enhance Health and Well-being:** We pledge to invest in accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare systems, focusing on child survival, preventive healthcare, primary healthcare services, and the reduction of maternal, neo-natal, infant and child mortality. We will address the burden of infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, and health issues, promoting

overall well-being for all Africans. On nutrition, we commit to reducing wasting, stunting, and underweight population. **We commit to our countries achieve 90% immunization coverage by 2030. We also commit to reduce maternal to 70 per 100,000 live births and under 5 child mortality to 25 per 1000 live births and stunting by 40% in our countries by 2030.**

- c) ***Empower Women and Girls:*** We emphasize the importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in human capital development. We commit to removing barriers that prevent women and girls from accessing education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. We will promote policies and initiatives that support gender mainstreaming, leadership development, and entrepreneurship for women and girls. **We commit to increasing access of secondary and tertiary education to at least 20mil additional adolescent girls in the continent by 2030, to cover 40% of girls aged 15 years to receive the recommended doses of HPV vaccine by 2025, and to reduce teenage pregnancies by half by 2030.**

- d) ***Promote Job Creation and Economic Opportunities:*** We understand the need to create an enabling environment for job creation and economic opportunities. We commit to implementing policies that attract domestic and foreign investment, promote entrepreneurship, and facilitate the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises. We will prioritize sectors with high potential for job creation, such as agriculture, renewable energy, digital technologies, and manufacturing. **We commit to provide training on skills to an additional 19 million to acquire digital skills for jobs by 2030 and aim for a Gross Enrollment Ratio for tertiary education of 20%.**

- e) ***Ensure Social Protection and Inclusion:*** We emphasize the importance of social protection systems to safeguard the most vulnerable populations. We commit to developing comprehensive social safety nets, including social insurance, access to quality housing, clean water, sanitation, and electricity. We will prioritize the inclusion of persons with disabilities, refugees, and internally displaced persons, ensuring that no one is left behind. **In this regard, we commit that all countries in the continent will have an operational social registry by 2030.**

- f) ***Strengthen Research and Innovation:*** We recognize the role of research and innovation in advancing human capital development. We will foster an enabling environment for scientific research, technology transfer, and innovation, encouraging collaboration between academia, industry, and governments. We will invest in research and development infrastructure and promote entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems to drive sustainable growth and job creation.

- g) ***Mobilize Resources and Partnerships:*** We commit to mobilizing domestic resources, increasing public and private investments, and leveraging international support. We will strengthen partnerships between governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, and academia to drive coordinated action and knowledge sharing. **We commit to increasing our domestic resources towards Human Capital outcomes by 3 percent by 2030.**

18. And with regards to this goal, we:

- a) ***Reiterate*** the call for an increased support to the continent to better rebuild after the crisis ensuing from the COVID-19 pandemic and other multiple crises.
- b) ***Acknowledge*** the role that bilateral and multilateral development partners, as well as the private sector, civil society organizations, think tanks and academia that play on Investing in our People and urge them to endeavor to align all support with the respective national development plans and strategies on Human Capital. **In this respect, we call on the development partners to increase funding and technical support for the Human Capital development programs by 5% by 2030.**

19. With the aim of securing a stable and prosperous future for our children and future generation, **we adopt this declaration** and raise our hands in solidarity with our development partners to creating a region with healthy population where all girls and boys arrive at school ready to learn, truly learn in and out of the classroom, acquire relevant skills and enter the job market as productive and fulfilled citizens.