

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
of the Republic of Mauritius
Africa Day Message 2022

The 25th May 2022 marks the 59th anniversary of the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity and the 20th anniversary of its successor, the African Union. Today, Mauritius joins the rest of Africa in celebrating Africa Day.

The role of our organisation in the last two decades has been shaped by the need of the moment, and this year's theme dedicated to "*Strengthening nutritional resilience and food security on the African continent: strengthening Agri-food, health and social protection systems for the acceleration of the development of human, social and economic capital development.*", is an appropriate response to the pressing food security and related challenges being faced by our continent.

While reinventing itself, we are heartened that the spirit of solidarity and unity which characterised the OAU continues to pervade our Union, as it constantly faces evolving economic, peace and security, developmental and sanitary challenges. Guided by these cardinal principles, the AU Commission and AU Member States have stood up in solidarity in a common fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and its ensuing impacts.

The AU's proactive role in response to the pandemic and its strong advocacy for equitable access to vaccines and debt relief for vulnerable countries has been widely acknowledged. We commend the efforts of the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in addressing health security and helping accelerate vaccine manufacturing and supply for the continent.

On this solemn occasion, Mauritius reiterates its deep commitment to the values, principles and objectives enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union. We are also determined to continue advancing the Agenda 2063 whose First Ten-Year Implementation Plan has already been domesticated into our national development plans.

At a time when African economies are only beginning to recover from the impact of COVID-19, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) brings an array of hope and endless opportunities.

Mauritius strongly believes that the implementation of the AfCFTA, a crucial driver for inclusive economic growth, job creation and sustainable development, will lead to the positive transformation of many African economies. We have no doubt that the AfCFTA will further boost trade and investment.

The universal values of democracy, good governance, the rule of law, the promotion and protection of human rights have been at the core of our development. In line with our commitment to upholding good governance, last January Mauritius presented its Progress Report on the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

As we celebrate Africa Day, the Government of the Republic of Mauritius would like to reiterate its deep appreciation to the Member States of the African Union for their unflinching support to its relentless struggle to complete the decolonization of the Republic of Mauritius so that it can effectively and fully exercise its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

Long Live Africa! Long Live the Republic of Mauritius!

25 May 2022