

TOP PRIORITIES FOR  
THE CONTINENT IN 2023

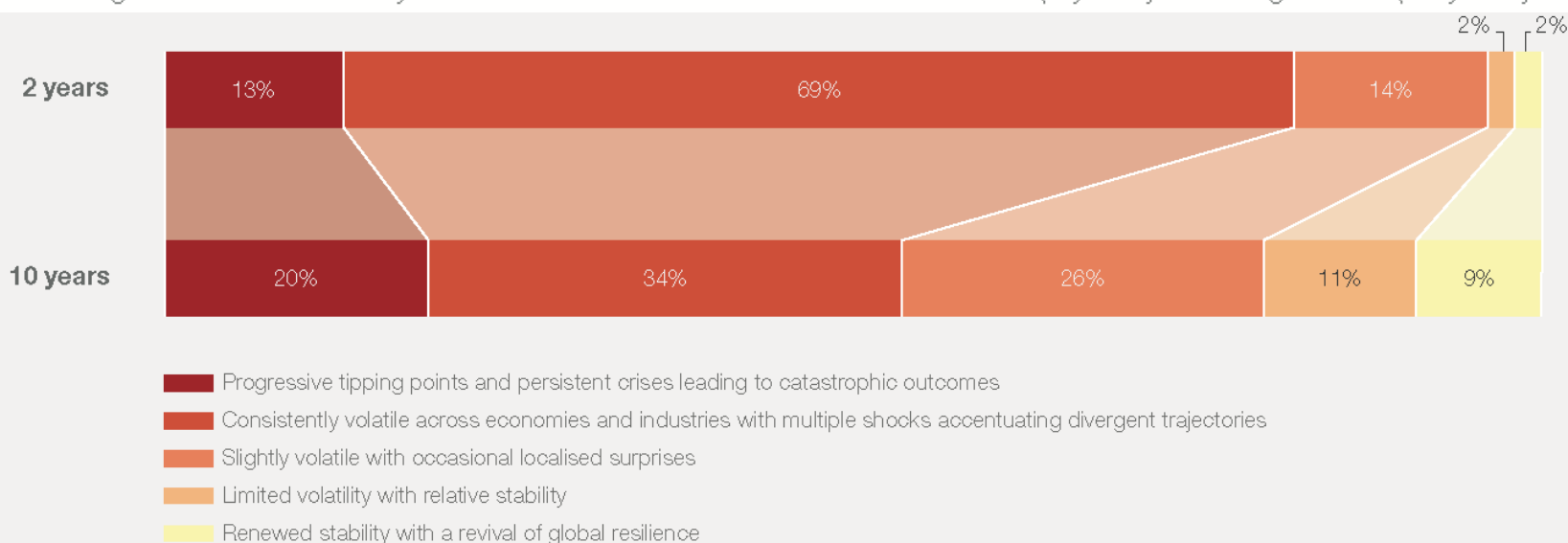
**FORESIGHT  
AFRICA**



# Heightened concern for our world

## Short- and long-term global outlook

"Which of the following best characterizes your outlook for the world over the short-term (2 years) and longer-term (10 years)?"



Source

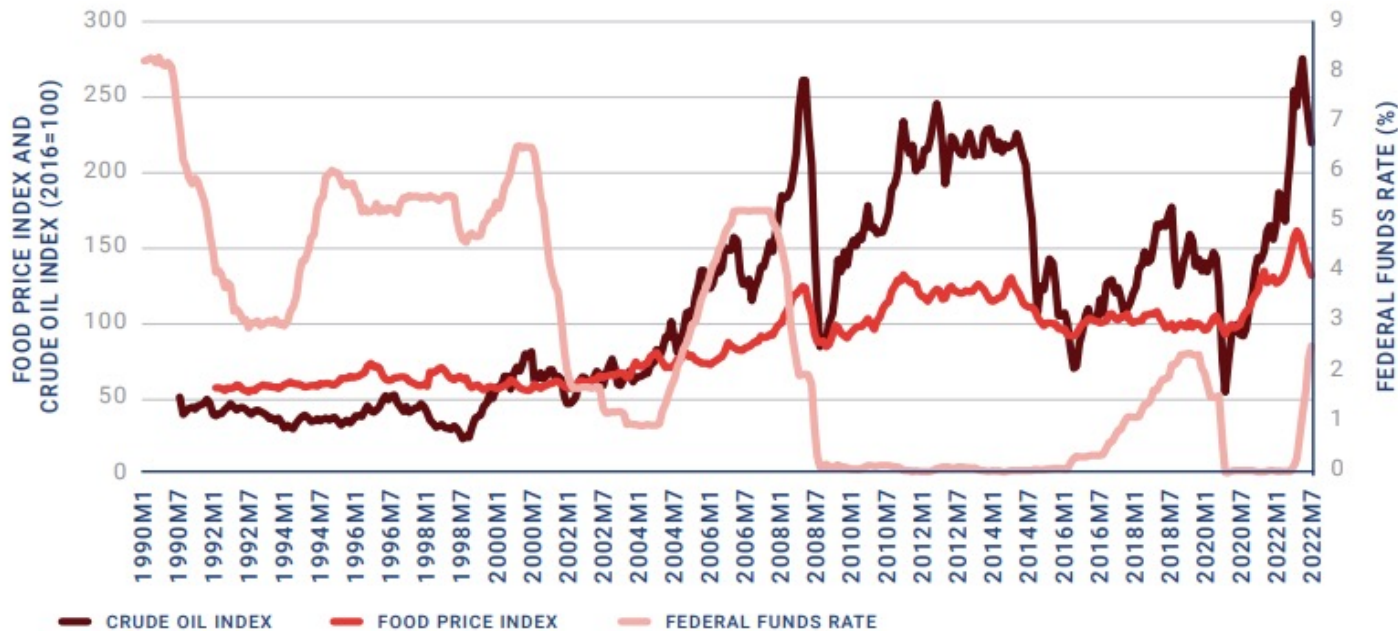
World Economic Forum, Global Risks  
Perception Survey 2022-2023.

# Africa's Economic Recovery

**FIG. 1**

**SHOCK TO FOOD, FUEL AND FINANCE: HIGH COMMODITY PRICES COUPLED WITH RISING INTEREST RATES POSE A UNIQUE CHALLENGE FOR AFRICA**

The last time food and oil prices spiked the way they did in 2022; was during the aftermath of the Great Recession. Back then, the federal funds rate, a proxy for global liquidity was less than one quarter of one percent. Africa, therefore, could weather the high cost of commodities by borrowing at reasonable rates. But now, with the federal funds target range reaching 4 percent, Africa may not be able to rely on debt to finance costly commodities, or cope with elevated debt costs.



Source: IMF. (2022). World Economic Outlook database, October 2022. International Monetary Fund. St. Louis Federal Reserve.

# Foresight Africa 2023

## Chapter 1

Economic Recovery  
and Growth:  
Tackling Multiple  
Headwinds

## Chapter 2

Food Security:  
Strengthening Africa's  
Food Systems

## Chapter 3

Education and Skills:  
Equipping a Labor Force for  
the Future

## Chapter 4

Health:  
Assuring Health Security for  
All

## Chapter 5

Gender:  
Closing the Equity Gap

## Chapter 6

Climate Change:  
Adapting to a New Normal

## Chapter 7

Africa's Cities:  
Realizing the New Urban  
Agenda

## **Africa's Economic Recovery: What should policymakers do?**

- Africa's policymakers are not helpless. Domestic policy actions matter, time to act is now
- Reduce people's vulnerability/develop social safety nets to avoid setbacks/democratic backsliding
- Don't waste the crisis! Reassess current approaches to borrowing and financing
- Exploit opportunities in non-traditional sectors e.g., sports and creative industries
- Lesson from Ecobank: Africa's banking sector is an important partner in recovery

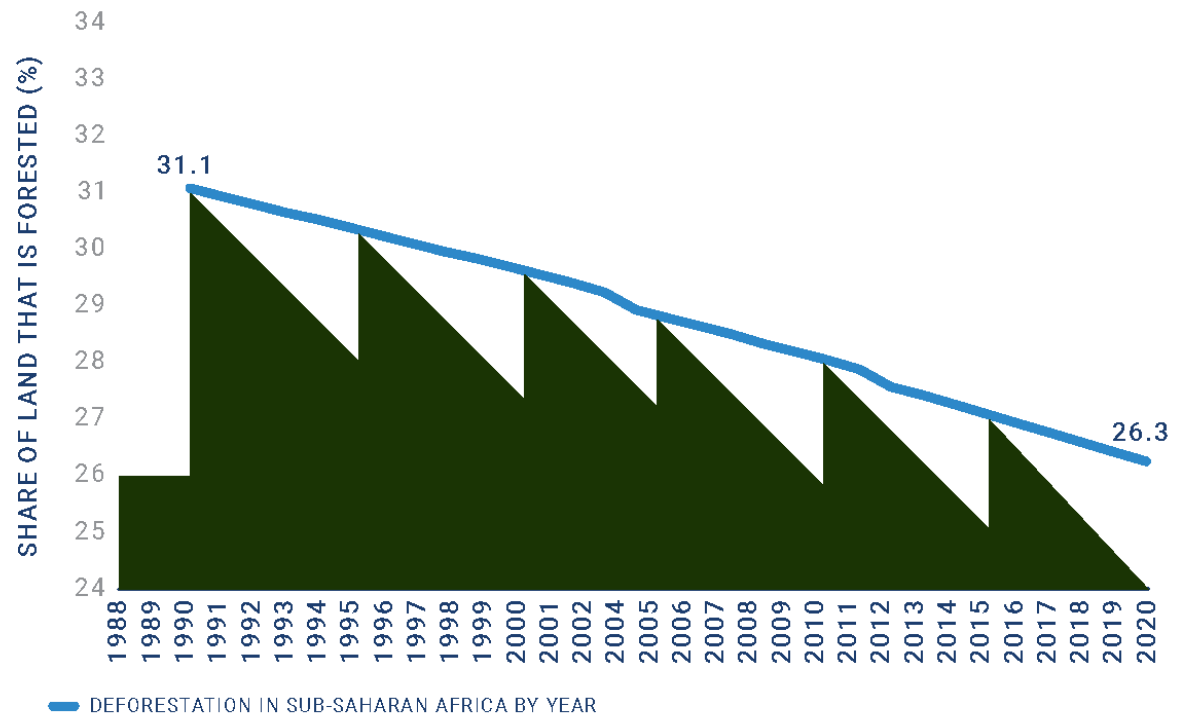
**Prof. Njuguna, Kwakwa, Nicolas Kazadi, Ade Ayeyemi**

# Food Security

**FIG. 18**

**AFRICA HAS LOST MORE THAN 15% OF ITS FORESTS SINCE 1990**

Africa's forests are being depleted at a rapidly increasing rate, in part to make room for agricultural land. From 1990 to 2020, the share of forested land in Africa fell from 31.1 percent to 26.3 percent. During this same period, the share of land used for agriculture increased from 6.6 percent to 9.3 percent.



Source: World Bank. 2022. World Development Indicators. World Bank Group.

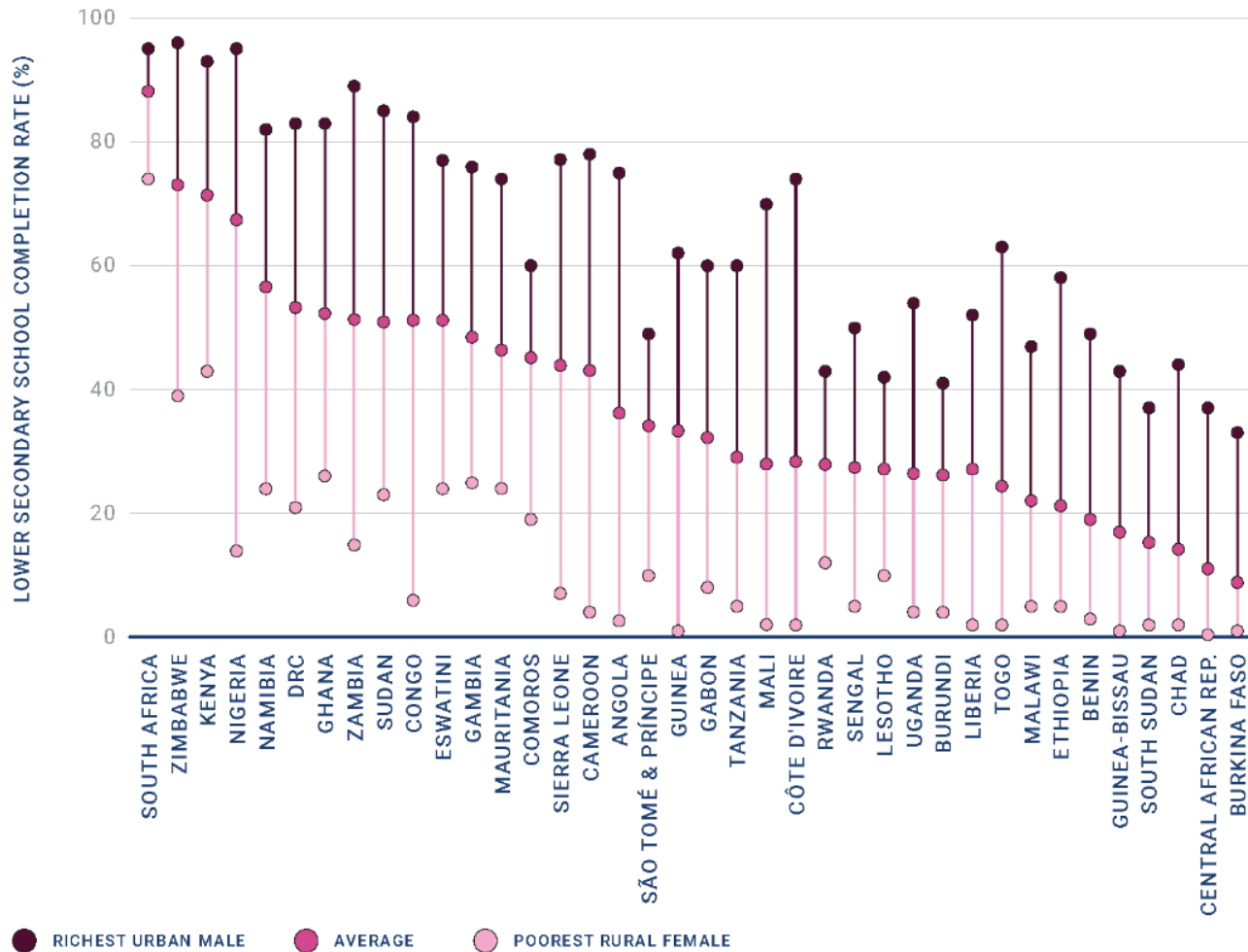
# Food Security: What should policymakers do?

- Shift preferences to local brands; encourage domestic and regional competition
- Invest in food systems that create jobs, sustainable, and excellent nutritional outcomes
- Re-examine conventional food policy
- Accelerate implementation of AfCFTA to avert future food supply disruptions
- Diversify Africa's food systems to include indigenous crops: sorghum, millets, teff, matoke, and cassava

**H.E. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Ahunna, Jeanine Cooper, Satu Santana**

# Education and Skills

School completion rates are highly unequal across demographics



Source: Mastercard. (2020). Secondary education in Africa: Preparing youth for the future of work." Focus 1. Mastercard Foundation.



## **Education and Skills: What should policymakers do?**

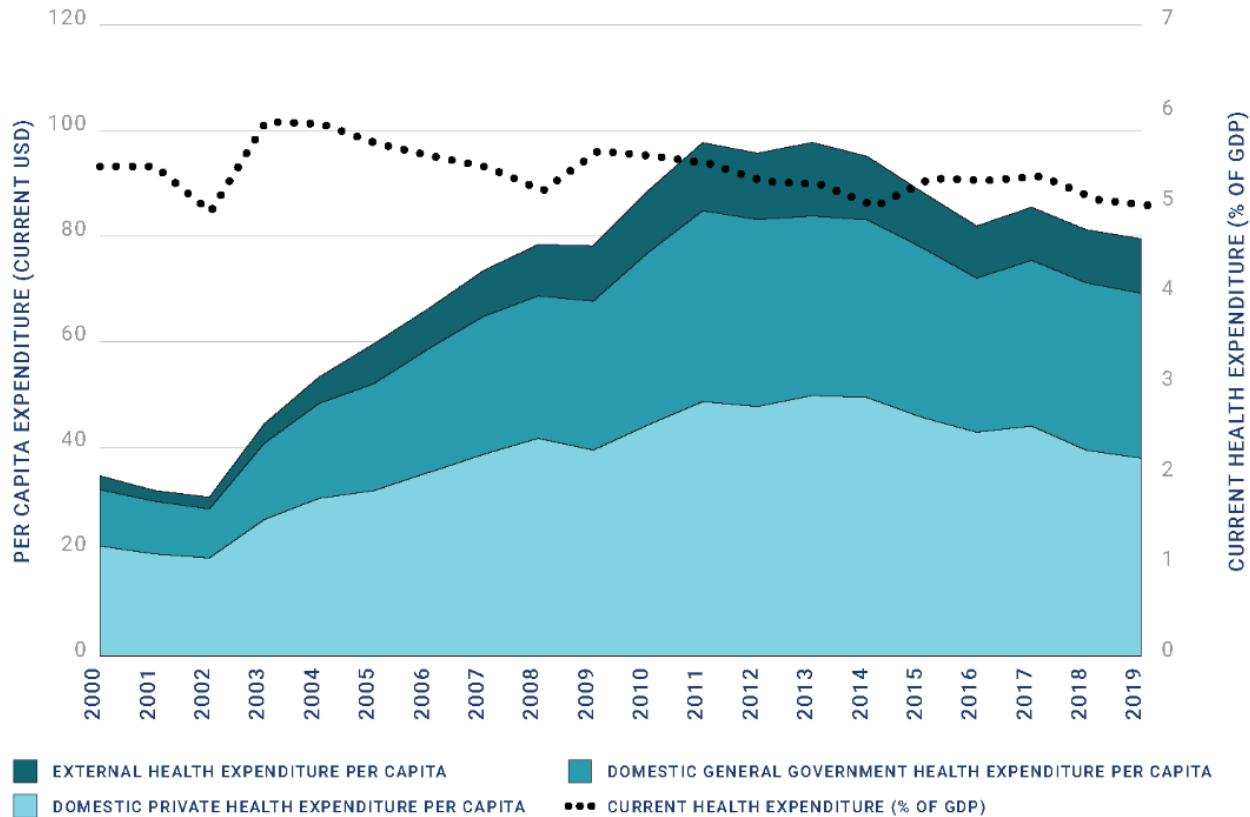
- Recognize education losses of the pandemic and compensate for this setback
- Use public resources on primary and secondary education to improve skills
- Safeguard national security to mitigate the negative effects of insecurity on educational outcomes
- Utilize new technologies and innovations to enhance learning.
- Ensure children acquire foundational and portable skills for technical and green jobs

**H.E. Kikwete, David Sengeh, Ruth Kagia, Safaa**

# Health

**FIG.26 HEALTH CARE SPENDING IN AFRICA DECLINED LAST DECADE**

Africa's health expenditure per capita has decreased since 2011. This contraction is not due to any one source in particular; domestic public, domestic private, and external sources of health expenditure have all declined in the last decade.



Source: World Bank. (2022). World Development Indicators. World Bank Group.

# Health: What should policymakers do?

- Aim for health systems that are less dependent on imported medicines and vaccines
- Leverage access to ICT and issue communication credits for enhanced network connection
- Prioritize universal health coverage
- Empower frontline workers and expand education for more nurses and midwives
- Endorse, fund, and strengthen regional institutions such as the Africa CDC and AMA to end HIV/AIDS

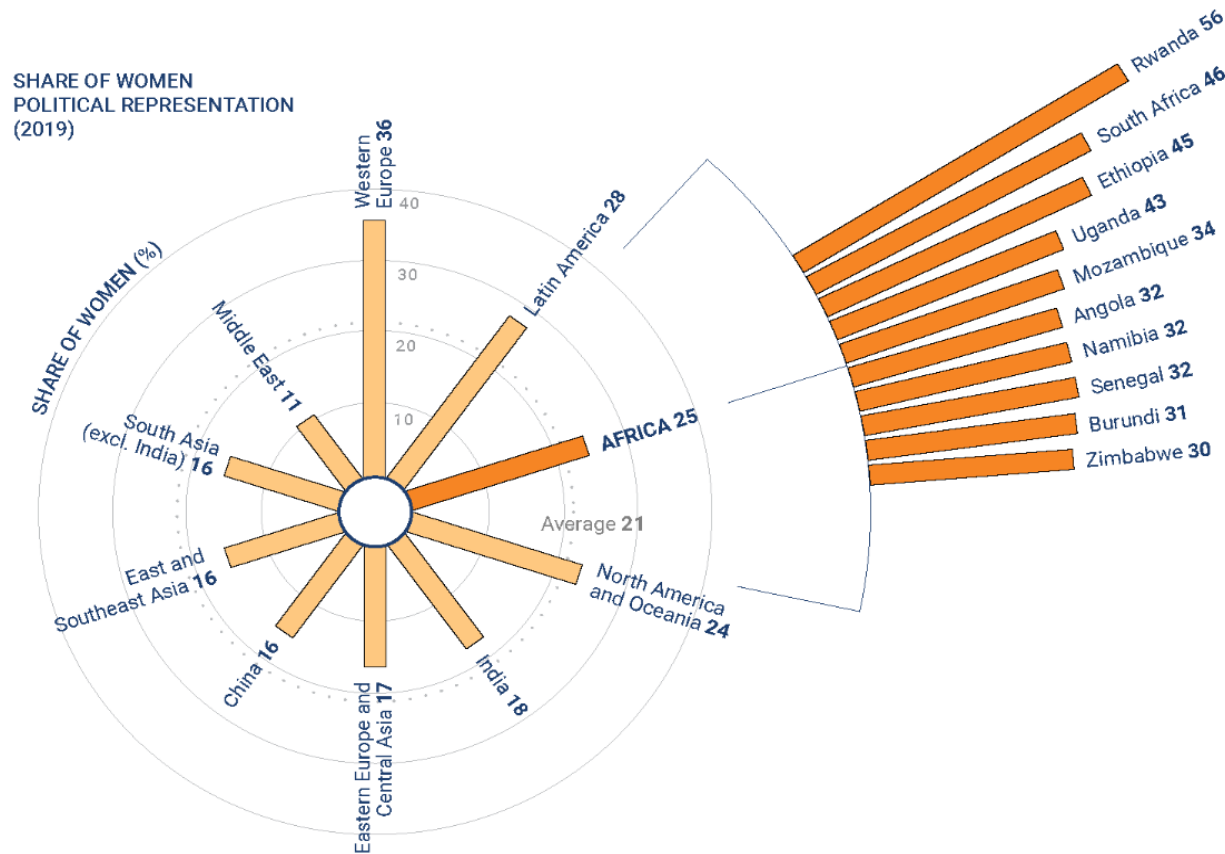
**Nkengasong, Edwine Barasa, Winnie Byanyima,  
Michelle Williams, Lia Tadesse, Chikwé Ihekweazu**

# Gender

**FIG.33**

**AFRICA'S FEMALE POLITICAL REPRESENTATION IS ABOVE THE WORLD'S AVERAGE**

Compared to other regions, Africa has one of the highest proportions of women in government. In Africa, one quarter of cabinet members and members of parliament are women, above the global average of 21. Africa is led by Rwanda and South Africa, where 56 and 46 percent of cabinets and parliaments are women respectively.



Source: Moodley, et al. (2019). "The power of parity: Advancing women's equality in Africa." McKinsey Global Institute.

## **Gender: What should policymakers do?**

- Addressing gender disparities must be a necessary part of every policy
- Implement continental and international treaties
- Relieve supply- and demand-side constraints to women's access to finance
- Governments, civil society, and funders to act with expediency to reduce gender equity gap
- Involve a diverse group of women in every conversation

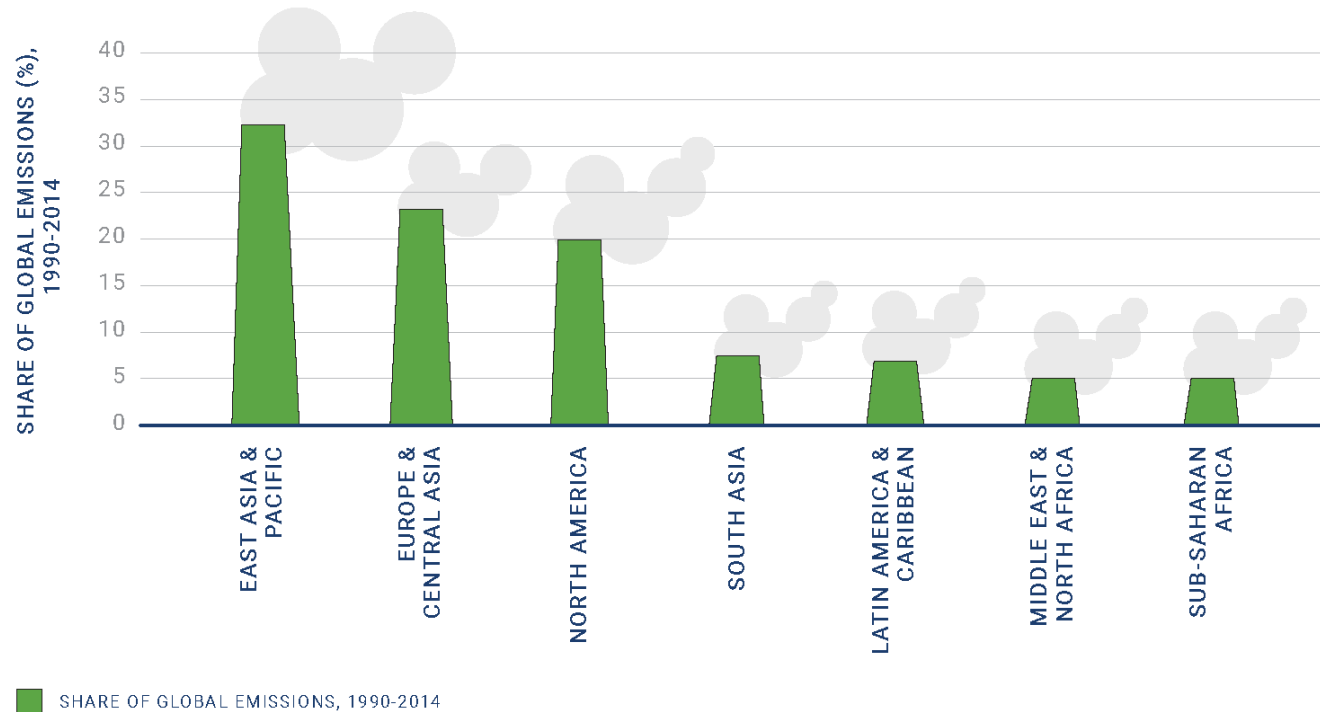
**Jeni Klugman, Caren Grown, Cina Lawson, Malado Kaba**

# Climate Change

**FIG.41**

**SHARE OF GLOBAL EMISSIONS BY REGION (1990 - 2014)**

Africa was responsible for only a marginal share of the more than 850,000 megatons of CO<sub>2</sub> that was emitted between 1990 and 2014. East Asia & Pacific was responsible for almost a third of such emissions over this period. Sub-Saharan Africa, on the other hand, accounted for only 5.1 percent of the world's global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



Source: European Commission, Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC)/Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL). Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR), release EDGAR v7.0\_GHG (1970 - 2021) as of September 2022.

## Climate Change: What should policymakers do?

- Climate change is a global commons problem and thus all actors must play their part
- Preserve natural assets like the Congo rainforest to maintain carbon absorption
- Fund climate change adaptation through equity investments and concessional financing
- Develop clean, sustainable national industrial policies and coordinate these policies at the regional level
- Efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change pay for themselves

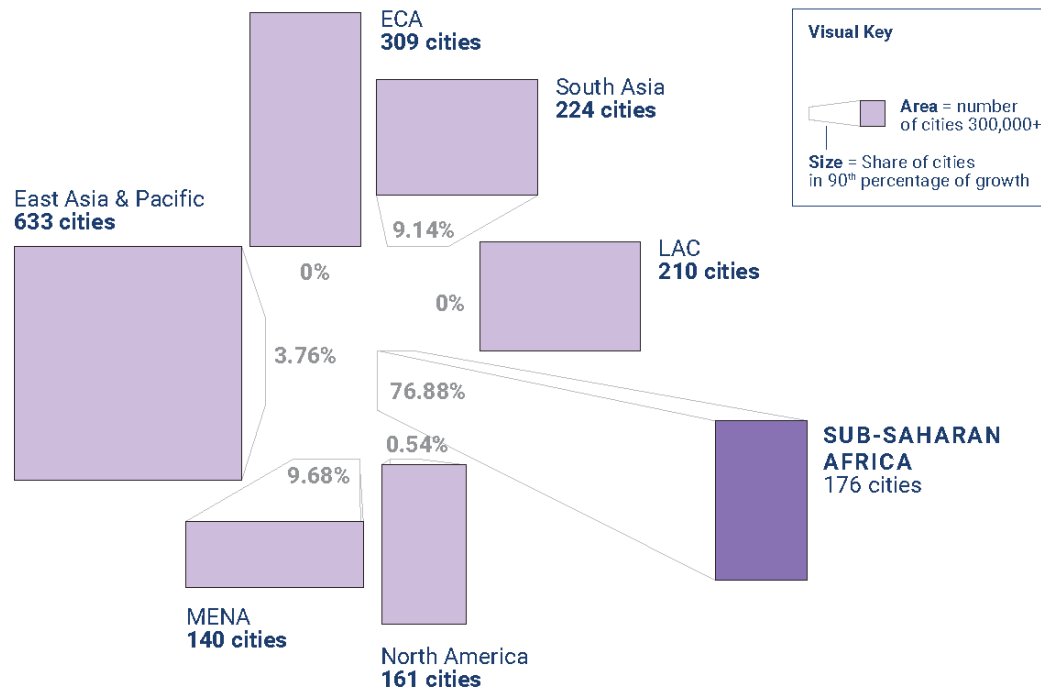
**Kevin Urama, Hon. Bogolo, Mahmoud Mohieldin,  
John Mulligan and Gracelin**

# Africa's Cities

**FIG.43**

## A MAJORITY OF THE WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING CITIES ARE FOUND IN AFRICA

Africa has only 176 of the world's 1,853 cities with populations of at least 300,000 people. Yet, it has more than two-thirds of the fastest growing cities in the world.



Note: Only cities with a population of at least 300,000 are included. Population growth projections are done by the United Nations and are for the year 2030.

Source: United Nations. (2022). United Nations' World Population Prospects.



## **Africa's Cities: What should policymakers do?**

- Learn from well-organized, economically efficient African cities
- Ensure local governments have the financing to build smart, forward-looking cities
- Prioritize climate resilient housing/buildings to secure livelihoods and reduce emissions
- Engage private sector and civil society organizations that act as both drivers and beneficiaries
- Foster formalization and privatization

**Jide Sanwo-Olu, Prof. Peter Nyong'o, George Hill-Lewis, Muhammad Gambo & KIPPRA scholars**