**Youth VNR Workshop – 21 April 2024**

**Key Messages/Outcome Statement: The 10th Session of AFRSD**

**Introduction**

This report highlights key recommendations and outcome statements from the Youth VNR Workshop held on 21st April 2024 at UNECA, Addis Ababa. The participants deliberated and discussed the following points.

1. Despite Africa being a youthful continent, less emphasis is being placed on the voices and the aspirations of the youth. We urge stakeholders to demonstrate actions beyond commitment to the voices and aspirations of the youth by allocating resources (technical and funding) to engineer youth leadership to drive the transformation of the continent.
2. As highlighted in the outcome statement adopted at the 9th session of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development held in Niger in 2023, we are emphasizing the call for the UN, AU and national governments to ensure thirty precent youth inclusion in all structures and mechanisms related to the SDGs and Agenda 2063 implementation and accountability.
3. Travel funding for youth and young sustainable development champions should be prioritized with the same intensity as government officials in key dialogues and forums recognizing their crucial roles in shaping our collective future.
4. Leverage the technological opportunity in Africa to drive youth economic transformation and to bridge the digital divide; also ensure equitable access to technology across Africa.
5. There is a need for Africa to harness its youthful population, foster skills development and promote entrepreneurial mindsets.
6. 85% of the population in Africa engage in the informal labour, therefore there is the need to harness the informal sector, make it more bankable and attractive to young people.
7. Create a sense of ownership of Agenda2063 and Agenda2030 by strengthening national youth platforms and intergenerational dialogues at the national, regional and global levels to educate and raise awareness among young people about the alignment between the agenda2063 and the SDGs.
8. Deepen collaborations between the UN Country Teams and youth networks and coalitions to implement the UN Youth Strategy 2030 and support youth development agenda at country level
9. Ensure regional balance and inclusion of African youth in the newly established UN Youth Office’s governance structure and programming.
10. Create enabling environment to foster youth innovation, entrepreneurship and open the African market to young people through the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA**).**