



# **Africa's Vision in the World: Nigeria's Position in It**

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### **Authors' contributions**

*This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Authors KOK and OOD designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript and managed literature searches. Authors KOK and OOD managed the analysis of the study and literature searches. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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## **ABSTRACT**

This paper deals with the vision of Africa in the world and the position of Nigeria in the achievement or the realization of the Africa vision. Africa has chosen to embark on a long time target, with various reforms, policies, vision and strategic development programs and plans, all channeled towards achieving a better and a good Africa. In this paper it was revealed that the African union has conceived and put in place its vision for its continent in the next 50 years, this vision is tagged vision 2063. This paper uses critical research method to compare and contrast, and also analyze the vision of the continent Africa and how it could be achieved considering the difference among the countries that makes up the continent. This African vision, agenda 2063 the goal of having an Africa that is rich and successful based on growth and development that is sustainable, also its purpose to have a continent that is politically united, a continent of good leadership and good governance, a collection of countries with respect for its citizen, human rights, democracy, justice and rule of law. Agenda 2063 foresees an African that is peaceful and safe for people to live. Africa with common history, tradition, qualities, values, ethics and strong cultural identities. An Africa where its people drives its development making good use of the potentials of its women and youth. In this

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paper, Nigeria's role in the achievement of the Africa's vision was really emphasized. Nigeria as one of the top countries in Africa, in size, population and economy has its own impart on the achievement of the vision of its continent Africa. Nigeria as a nation has set for itself goals to pursue which will in turn bring about to achievement of the vision of Africa, such as the vision 20:2020. The seven point agenda by late president Umaru Musa Yar'Adua which covers the basic areas of (a) power and energy, (b) food and security and agriculture, (c) wealth creation and employment, (d) mass transportation, (e) land reforms, (f) security (g) good education. The achievements of this set goals will definitely cause a rise to the spirit of enterprise by the Nigerian hence reduces poverty in Nigeria and Africa at large. As Nigeria practical execute the plans of achieving vision 20:20:20. The success in the achievement of vision 2020is highly imperative in the achievement of vision 2063.

*Keywords: Africa; Nigeria; vision and goals.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This paper discusses the vision of Africa in the world and Nigeria's part in achieving the vision. African as a continent desires a position or level of ranking in the world, and that is what we will be unveiling in the cause of writing this paper. At exactly two score and ten years, African countries representatives met in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia to form the organization of Africa Union.

On the celebration of the fifty years anniversary of the Organization of African Union OAU in May 2013, Africa's political leaders acknowledged past achievement and challenges then they stated the African Vision of "having an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizen and representing a dynamic force in the global arena" [1].

The Africans Agenda 2063 is put together by the joint effort of UN Economic Commission for Africa, Planning and Coordinating Agency, African Union Commission, supported by the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and the African Development Bank. The united voice of the African union painted a picture of what is desired of Africa by it citizen for generations to come and the continent itself. This agenda 2063 show that Africans aspires for the well-being and prosperity of it citizen [1]. The potentials of collective nations/citizens, men, women, youth and children are well utilized in other to speed up its development. Nation's free of sickness, disease, free from fear of all sorts. Africa with admirable culture and strong identity. Africa that is globally influential.

The organization of Africa union are confident of it citizens, that it is capable of realizing her full potential in development.

During the celebration of Africa's half-century of independence, the nation representative which make up the organization of Africa Unions in collaboration with other necessary bodies uses the opportunity to embark on the process of mapping out a new long-term goal for it continent Africa. The vision tagged Agenda 2063 is a shared plan with a mind for achieving the growth, sustainable development and better living of Africans [1].

The putting together of agenda 2063 is not a sole job but a collective consultation of various stakeholder such as civil society organization; the youth, women, Government sectors, research institute, private sector and other organization. The result of these consultations is what gave birth to agenda 2063.

The following are the African vision 2063;

1. A developed and prosperous Africa.
2. Africa that is politically united (an integrated continent).
3. A peaceful and secure Africa.
4. Africa with good leadership, governance, respect for its citizens and rule of law.
5. Africa with common heritage, values ethics and strong cultural identity.
6. An Africa who's development is a result of maximum utilization of the potential of its citizens mostly women and youth.
7. Africa that is globally influential [1].

### 1.1 Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of this paper are to expose to the reader the following:

- African in context (list of countries that makes up the continent Africa)

- The Africans vision in the word
- Nigeria's position in achieving the vision

## **2. LITRATURE REVIEW**

Vision is the ability to see farther than you can look physically with your eyes. Vision is the ability of one seeing the future before it comes to pass. Vision requires consisted and sustained effort for their achievement.

As it is imperative for every countries to have a vision statement, so it is for each continent in the world as it stirs the imagination and motivates all countries which makes up the continent to a greater effort. This is an essential step in building a political agreement on a broad natural development strategy, which compass the roles and responsibility of different agent in the economy.

Visioning is the process of identifying, developing, documenting vision and values, leading towards strategy and tactics. That is visioning can be said to be a mental process in which images of the desired future goals, objectives and outcomes are made intensely real and compelling to act as motivator for the present action. Therefore visioning is concerned with long term planning or perspective planning vision can either be a long term or short term goals.

The African vision 2063 is a long term vision, however development is a continuous process, the choice of the year 2063 is just an arbitrary division of time, based on the search report. There was no known rigorous analysis to determine the time the vision could be realized, the vision can be realized even before the year 2063. It depends on the cross- country experience in most recent seeds of change [1].

Considering the level of poverty/hardship experienced by large number of people in the continent, the agenda 2063 though a long term vision has strategically put in place, sectionalized plan to alleviate poverty totally from it continent in a short while. And this will be driven by maximizing the potentials of the youth and women of the continent.

A vision is not worth nothing if the visionary is not taking required step/action towards achieving it. To achieve a vision, it is imperative to put in place, strategic plans and also take necessary actions toward achieving the set goal.

A good vision blue print and indeed any plan at all should have some key feature such as comprehensiveness, inclusiveness, review of past performance, particularly, identification of the most serious current problem, desired economic objectives and targets, programs of capital spending for the plan period and a range of forecast about the behavior of the economy over the plan period etc.

## **3. AFRICA IN CONTEXT**

The continent Africa is the second largest in the world and second most populated continent in the world. Africa covers 6% of the total earth surface area and 20.4% of the earth total land area. As at 2013 the population of Africa is over 1.1 billion people, which is about 5% of the world's human population. The continent Africa is made up of 54 well recognized countries, 9 territories and 2 independent states with limited recognition.

Africa hosts a large diversity of ethnicities, cultures and languages. In the late 19th century European countries colonized most of Africa. Most modern states in Africa originate from a process of decolonization in the 20th century [2].

Africa is a continent that is surrounded by water in all directions, with clearly determined borders. It is separated from Europe by the Mediterranean Sea in the north, From Asia in the north east by red sea and Suez Canal. From the east and southeast it is surrounded by the Indian Ocean, from the west by the Atlantic Ocean [3].

According to Ref. [3] the total number of independent states in Africa is 54. The transcontinental country in this region is Egypt, having also a small part of its territory in Asia, on the other side of the Suez Canal, but politically it is a member of the African Union.

Among the African countries, Algeria is the biggest, it occupying about 7% of the continent's territory. While the smallest nation is the Seychelles, the worldwide famous luxurious beach holiday destination, occupying 115 islands stretching along the mainland's eastern coast.

The colourful Morocco is in the first place among the most popular travel spots in this part of the world, the second place belongs to South Africa, followed by Egypt and Tunisia [3].



**Fig. 1. The map of Africa**

Source: <http://www.wikipedia.com/search/african> [2]

#### 4. LIST OF COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

The following are the countries that make up the continent Africa:

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad Comoros, Congo, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe [3].

#### 5. AFRICA'S VISION IN THE WORLD

The African vision, Agenda 2063 is a written picture of a prosperous Africa occupied by

citizens living in comfort, unity, freedom from conflict and peace. An Africa with improved security, standard education and technological advancement. It also shows an Africa which is influential in global stake making, which contribute largely to human progress and welfare, an Africa with admirable culture and values. In short a good and better Africa.

Let's go through this visions one after the other in details.

##### 5.1 A Developed and Prosperous Africa

The Africa we will be having by 2063 will be an Africa with shared prosperity, Africa with the ability to finance its own development , an Africa where its citizen have a high standard of living, good life and well-being. By 2063 the increase per income in capital will be 10times better than it is now. There will be increase in employment opportunities for all both women and youth. The increase in income and improved wellbeing, social stability and cohesion will be driven by the

drastic increase in availability of gainful and decent job for all working age adult. The improved income and job will help in the eradication of poverty. It will also raise the status of the African continent from being in the class of low- income countries to that of a high income and fully developed countries. And also it will bridge the gap between the income of the rural and urban areas, men and women which in turn leads to a more cohesive society [1].

Africa prosperity by 2063 will be driven by its large possession of human capital developed through quality education, skill acquisition and health services with decline in mortality rate. By 2063 Africa will have the largest population in the world, and its citizens will be well educated and skillful in science and technology. By 2063 Africa would have get rid of all forms of NTDs (Neglected Tropical Disease), communicable disease would be under control, all systems for significant reduction of non-communicable and lifestyle changes related diseases and zero death from HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis must be in place. Citizens of Africa will be entitled to affordable and quality health services. By 2063 every citizen of the continent Africa will be healthy and well nutrition enjoying his/her life for expectancy of let's say 75 years and above.

Africa by 2063 will provide for its citizens basic needs, such as affordable and decent housing, access to constant and clean water supply, sanitized environment, transportation, high speed broadband internet connectivity for all.

Africa of 2063 will be an integrated continent with greater impact/part player in global growth through wealth creation. In order to achieve this the continent will improve upon its rate of growth in the recent decades, while at same time address vigorously the issue of structural transformation and trade output, expand its horizon and make adequate its dilapidated infrastructures' and human resources available, and also improves and modernizes its capability in science and technology.

Africa would by 2063 benefit from fast growing economy and microeconomic stability. This economic development will be driven by the advancement in science and technology, which will result in increase in business generation/ entrepreneurship emanating from the technological know-how by the African citizens. There will be world class regional/continental

research institute established to provide critical research information leading to transformations in diverse sectors such as, agriculture, industry and natural resources, technology which will help entrepreneur in their endeavors.

By 2063 agriculture will be a major source of income in the continent, and also in the international market African nations will be major exporters of agricultural products both raw and finished goods [1].

## **5.2 Africa that is Politically United (an Integrated Continent)**

This means that Africa embarks in this to make sure by 2063 it emerges as a sovereign, independent, united and strong Africa that has achieved full economic and political integration. That is to become a confederate or federal United States of Africa. For a long time now the quest for a united Africa has been inspired by the pan African Spirit particularly focusing on economic independence and development, political liberation based on self-reliance on African people with democracy playing a fundamental role in realizing continental unity.

As part of accomplishing the goal of having a united state of Africa the continent would have established key economic institutions such as Africa Monetary Union (2030), Africa common market (2025), Africa Customs Union 2019 and Africa Free Trade Areas (2017) and they could be part of governance structure of united state of Africa. After fully realizing this Africa's dream or vision of becoming United States of Africa. The citizens will be issued citizen's passport and a Union Anthem and flag [1].

By 2063 every necessary document, sectors, organization, both legislative, executive and judiciary needed to for Africa to become a United States must have been put in place. All necessary infrastructure will be in place to support the fast growth, trade and development, technological transformation which includes; developed ICT, Digital economy, roads, shipping lines, Speed railway networks and sea and air transportation.

## **5.3 A Peaceful and Secure Africa**

Africa also aspires to be a very peaceful and secure continent by 2063, that is, a continent that is conflict free with joy and harmony among communities even at the lowest level. Total

elimination of war either inter-state or intra-state, and ensure that mechanisms are put in place to prevent or immediately resolve any kind of inter community crisis or conflict. And also the eradication of other minor or major forms of criminal activities such as piracy, theft, drug abuse and drug trafficking, human trafficking and so on. The diversity in religion, ethnic, economy, culture among the Africa state would be a source of wealth and speedy economic growth rather than being a source of conflict.

For Africa to achieve the vision of being peaceful and safe, it must put in place security and safety measures for its citizens, entrenched culture of peace and make appropriate contributions in defending the continent's security interest.

In 10 years time all gun would have been silenced and all form of war, hooliganism, gangsterism and all kind of conflict would have been eradicated. National and other agency for peaceful resolution of conflicts would be in place and a culture of peace would be nurtured in Africa's children through fervent peace education in all school.

There would be peace among individuals, families and communities; this will be driven by the improvement in security and reduction in per capita violent crime creating a safe a peaceful environment for citizens. Capable uniformed service, professional and dedicated security service would be in place across the entire continent. By 2063 Africa will be militarily strong thereby increase its security capacity, this will provide a strong security with a simply defense and security policy and strategy, so that they continent would need assistant from anywhere else when it need to defend itself.

The African union Government will put in place a fully operational Land, Air and sea force for peace and conflict Resolution which will be under it authority. Also Naval commands and cyber-security system will be put in place to manage Africa maritime interest and to protect and defend her interest in e-world respectively.

#### **5.4 Africa with Good Leadership, Governance, Respect for It Citizens and Rule of Law**

By 2063 Africa aspires to have been deeply rooted in the culture of good governance, gender quality democratic value, respect for its citizens right, adhering to justice and the rule of law.

Africa also aspires to by 2063 be known for a continent with democratic values and practices, which is well established in the political culture as provided in the Africa Governance Plan.

Election wises, Africa will be a continent that conduct free fair and credible elections. There will be multi- party contesting and citizens will freely without fear go out on Election Day to exercise their franchise. Election officials will educate electorate to make informed choice; this will promote Pan Africanism, equality, excellence and solidarity. Africa will possess vibrant and responsible press that informs the public of their duties and obligation and also hold all branches of the government accountable for any abnormalities on their own side.

Africa by 2063 will be a continent that gives full respect to human right, justice and rule of law. All states under the continent will also adhere to these. The citizens of the continent will have access to independent courts and judiciary that its justice is not influence by any external or internal force but delivers justice without fear or favour. Everyone will have timely and Affordable justice. Corruption and impunity will be history in the judicial sector in Africa.

By 2063 all African institutions will be at the service of its people. Institutions will be established which will enhance the participation of African citizens in the development and growth in economy of the government and also in governance management. Competent and professional bodies based on merit will serve the continent and deliver effective and efficient services. Institutions will be given free hands and full capacity to prioritize, plan, design, implement and monitor in an accountable manner development activities, and with full involvement of its people. In short the continent will experience good governance and better leadership where state, local and communities will not only be responsible for their local development but will receive their share of the revenue made from the exploitation of natural resources and they will use them for the benefits of all.

#### **5.5 Africa with Common Heritage, Values, Ethics and Strong Cultural Identity**

By 2063 Africa aspires to have a continent with states of common heritage, values ethics and strong cultural identity. As part of human civilization, Africa is a custodian of cultural

inheritance that has enormously contributed to human progress and values. By 2063 African cultural identity ethnics and values will be a key factor for a strengthen re-emergence of Africa in global stage. African citizens are embedded with the sense of their fundamental cultural unity, which has given birth to a sense of common destiny and pan- African consciousness.

By 2063 there will be realization of the values and idea of Pan Africanism every in the continent and beyond. The unit of African people and its descendant would have been attained and agencies for different affairs must have been established in all states. Dual citizenship for the Diaspora will be available and all nations under colonial rule would have won its independence, Pan Africanism will be the watch Word in the heart of all students in school, Pan Africa ideals will be added to the curriculum of schools to ensure that the coming generation is fully acquainted with the importance of Pan Africanism. African music, films, theater will be sponsored in other that African creative art contributes significantly to the GDP and in the world culture.

Africa by 2063 will be the one with flourished culture, national languages would be used for administration, and there will be strong working ethics, this will be based on merit. Community and Social cohesion, traditional Africa values of family will be firmly established.

By 2063 Africa will be a continent where change will be driven by women, youth, religious leaders and traditional leaders. Women will be player a vital role in the Achievement of the values and ideals Pan Africanism. There will be mechanism for protection and preservation of cultural heritage- Language, customs, traditions that are not harmful at all levels.

The Africa of 2063 will see its culture, creative art, national language, literatures flourish and contribute significantly to the national cultures and also see to the complete identification and preservation of its Oral history. There will be organization of Africa festivals such as, music festivals, dance festivals, film and cultural festival annually or biannually.

There will be museum of the African History, culture and art and its opening will be graced by the biannual African Cultural sports Festival.

## **5.6 An Africa Whose Development is as a Result of Maximum Utilization of the Potential of Its Citizens Mostly Women and Youth**

As one of the Africa's agenda for 2063, it aspires to have a continent whose development is driven by the maximum utilization of its people without minding, age, gender, religion, tribe, social and political differences, and ethnic affiliation or other factor. Opportunities will be given to women to play critical role in African transformation.

The continent will be free of all form of violence and discrimination against women and girl child such as barriers to access to quality health and education for women and all form of social harassment will be put to end and they will be given equal enjoyment of their Human rights.

By 2063 women will be well empowered will right to officiate at all levels, politically, academically, administratively in all spheres of life. That means women will have equal economic right, women can own and also inherit properties, they can sign contract, they can also manage and register a business. African will be free of every form of disparity against women. It will see women occupying 50% of elected offices at state, regional and local bodies, also women will be occupying 50% of managerial positions in both government and private sectors.

By 2063 African charter o the right of children will be implemented, this will be the beginning of the full empowerment of the African children and youth. Youth unemployment would have been eliminated because youth will be given full access training opportunities, recreation and culture activities, and health services as well as to financial means to allow each youth realize their full potential. The youth will generate new ideas driven by their acquired knowledge which will significantly contribute to the economy. All forms of child trafficking and illegal migration of youth will be put to stop. The talent of African youth would be enormously put to use to foster the continents economic, cultural and political development.

## **5.7 Africa that is Globally Influential**

Africa aspire to be globally influential being a strong, tough and influential global player and partner with a bigger role in the world affairs.

Africa by 2063 will be a continent which funds its self, Africa countries will not depend on donation from other continent in any circumstance, this will be achieved by the continues training/ empowerment of the youth which will influence the continents economy through the creation of jobs and employment. The financial capability of the African continent will be enormous that it will start donating to other continent.

By 2063 Africa must have acquired a permanent set in the UN Security Council, Africa will be in-charge of determining its own future, leading its agenda and developing plans with its external partners. Africa will be represented as a Permanent member of the UN Security Council, proportionate to the size of its member states [1].

The African union Government would have by 2063 strengthens its partnership policies and also its global negotiation capacity in the global economy, security environment and social negotiation as well as the United Nations Security Council.

By 2063 Africa would be a member of the world decision body, it would be in the position to strategically manage both opportunity and risk that is/and will be facing it then and in the nearest future.

## **6. NIGERIA'S POSITION IN ACHIEVING AFRICA'S VISION**

Nigeria is one of the largest countries In Africa, and it has presently, the largest population of over 160million person. Nigeria is a nation blessed with different mineral resource, human resources and large work force [4].

Nigeria had choose to embark on various reforms, policies, visions and strategic development programmes and plans, all channeled towards achieving a developed country, which in turn see to the achievement of a better Africa. Seven point agenda in recent years and a considerable numbers of expeditions. Our government had conceived the vision 2020, which is aimed at giving Nigerian a chance to be one of the first 20 countries in global economics by 2020 and beyond.

Let's critically analyse how Nigeria as a nation partakes in the vision of Africa.

One of the visions of Africa is to have A developed and prosperous Africa. This means

Africa aspires to see its people having good and better life and wellbeing. Having a good house, good job with good income, well-educated children, youth and children with knowledgeable skills in science and technology, thereby given birth to innovative ideas and enterprises. Africa aspires to see its citizens living in good health, well-nourished having easy and affordable access to health care service.

Nigeria as a nation has made different plan and programme which will aid the quick achievement of this vision in Nigeria and in Africa at large. The Nigeria vision 2020 which focus on making Nigeria on the first 20 countries in the global economy by the year 2020, cover a large percentage of achievement of Africa's vision in Nigeria [5].

In different state in Nigeria, such as Rivers State, Akwa- Ibom state, Lagos and other, the government has been investing seriously on construction of roads, building of standard school for quality education, given scholarships to student, building recreational centers for skill acquisitions and so on, while in some other state in the western and northern part of Nigeria, government is investing on agriculture which is the food bank of the countries. This are all driven towards the achievement of African Vision in Nigeria.

Also the seven point agenda by late president Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. Covers the basic areas of (a) power and energy, (b) food and security and agriculture, (c) wealth creation and employment, (d) mass transportation, (e) land reforms, (f) security and (g) quality education. After Nigeria has completely achieved this seven point agenda, the achievement of the Africa vision will be at its peak [4].

As a means of total eradication of poverty in the Nigeria soil the federal, state and local government has been investing in grass root youth empowerment scheme, donation of sewing machines, hair dryers, tricycle and many other things to assist them in their various endeavours.

In security the nation Nigeria is re-strategizing and re-enforcing all her security agencies, the army, Navy, police Joint task force, civil Defence, to ensure peace in the nation and the safety of its people. The present administration of President Mohamed Buhari is putting all possible best to cob terrorist insurgency and attack, the federal



Government is partnering with other nations to getting sophisticated weapon in other to fight terrorist attack in the country.

Africa also aspires to be a federal or confederate United States of Africa having an integrated continent, politically United based on the ideal of Pan Africanism. Nigeria is a part of the Africa union to ensure the achievement of this vision in Africa.

The present administration of President Muhammadu Buhari is enforcing reformation on every sector In the Nigeria government to achieve good governance as projected by agenda 2063.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Vision is the ability to see farther into the future than you can look with your physical eye. Vision is a driver that stirs a nation into strategic and tactical action in other to achieve the set goals.

Africa as a continent has seen that it's imperative to have a vision statement which is written to have a better Africa in the nearest future. Visioning which is the process of identifying, developing and documenting vision and values, leading towards achieving a better tomorrow. Through this paper we have presented above the expectations of African people in the next 50 years. Considering the fact that the countries that made up the continent have advantages over each other, there are difference in population, human resources, level of exposures, net income and revenue generation.

These different countries are faced with different challenges and this determines their individual level or speed of meeting the vision of the African continent, despite this difference the nations should come to a unanimous consensus and face the realization of these vision as one and in unity the goal will be achieved.

Nigeria been a part of the country that makes up Africa, and as our case study for the achievement of African vision 2063 has put up vision 2020 which aims at Nigeria becoming one of the world 20 largest economy in the year 2020 this will put Nigeria in the position of a key player in the world global economy and political arena.

Through this research work it has been found that Africa as a continent will in the nearest future becomes an integrated continent (the United State of Africa). It will become a well-developed and prosperous continent with peaceful and secured environment for its citizens and foreigners; it will have good leaders which practice good governance and has respect for human right and the rule of law. The development of the continent will be as a result of maximum utilization of the potential of it citizens mostly women and youth.

We also discovered that Nigeria as one of the largest country in the continent has a mjr role to play in the achievement of the continents Agenda 2063. The country Nigeria has been contributing enormously to the achievement of the vision through strategic plans towards the achievement of it vision 20:2020, its seven point agenda and other targets of the nation. The accomplishment of this various target of Nigeria as a country will greatly contribute towards the achievement of the Agenda 2063.

For a vision to succeed, there must a clear definitions of the goals to be achieved in all key sectors of the economy, commitment of the leadership, shared ownership and integration of relevant viewpoints.

For Africa to achieve this vision 2065 every country/state that makes up the continent must synergies and sees their self as one body with a sole aim, goal and vision.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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