



SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

**CODESA – COMESA CIRCULAR ON
ADOPTION AND INTEGRATION OF
AGENDA FOR SOCIAL EQUITY 2074**

EUSL'S ENDGAME AGENDA FOR INTEGRATION AND FINANCING

CREATED BY

EUSL AB

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COMESA CIRCULAR ON ADOPTION AND INTEGRATION OF AGENDA FOR SOCIAL EQUITY 2074

Preamble

This Circular is issued under the authority of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and in recognition of the region's commitment to harmonise development priorities with globally recognised frameworks for inclusive and sustainable growth.

The Agenda for Social Equity 2074 (hereinafter referred to as "Agenda 2074") constitutes a long-term, multi-sectoral framework designed to complement and reinforce existing global and continental agendas, including the United Nations Agenda 2030, the African Union Agenda 2063, and the COMESA Digital Transformation Strategy.

By adopting Agenda 2074, COMESA and its Member States affirm their collective ambition to advance social equity, digital inclusion, and governance innovation as foundational pillars of regional integration. This adoption establishes a unified platform for aligning national and regional strategies, ensuring that social equity becomes a measurable and enforceable component of COMESA's development architecture.

This Circular therefore provides the legal and institutional basis for the integration of Agenda 2074 principles into regional strategies, national development plans, sectoral frameworks, and financing instruments, thereby positioning COMESA as a continental leader in inclusive growth and cooperative governance.

Section 1 – Purpose and Applicability

The purpose of this Circular is to formalise the regional adoption of Agenda 2074 as a strategic framework for COMESA and its Member States and to mandate its integration into all regional programmes, national strategies, and sectoral plans. Agenda 2074 serves as a governance and development blueprint that complements existing global and continental agendas while introducing a distinctive focus on social equity, digital transformation, and cooperative governance.

This Circular applies to all COMESA organs, specialised agencies, and regional programmes, including ACTESA and CODESA, as well as to all Member States participating in COMESA initiatives or benefiting from regional financing mechanisms. It extends to all projects, programmes, and initiatives financed or co-financed by COMESA, development partners, or private sector actors under regional agreements, and to all future regional strategies, trade facilitation programmes, and digitalisation initiatives implemented under COMESA auspices.

Section 2 – Mandatory Integration into Regional and National Plans

All COMESA organs, specialised agencies, and Member States shall ensure that the principles and targets of Agenda 2074 are fully integrated into their respective strategies, programmes, and planning instruments. This integration shall not be treated as an aspirational measure but as a binding requirement for the design, approval, and implementation of all regional and nationally aligned initiatives.

Regional strategies, including the COMESA Medium-Term Strategic Plan, trade facilitation frameworks, and digital transformation programmes, shall explicitly reflect Agenda 2074 objectives. Likewise, Member States shall incorporate these principles into their national development plans, sectoral strategies, and budgetary frameworks, ensuring that social equity, digital inclusion, and governance integrity are embedded as measurable outcomes.

Integration shall be evidenced through the alignment of objectives with the seventeen Social Global Goals defined under Agenda 2074, the inclusion of indicators for equity and inclusion, and the allocation of resources to activities that directly advance these goals. Existing plans shall be revised within twelve months of the issuance of this Circular, while all new plans developed thereafter shall incorporate Agenda 2074 principles from inception.

To facilitate this process, the COMESA Secretariat, through CODESA, shall provide technical assistance, standardised templates, and capacity-building programmes to Member States and regional institutions. These measures will ensure uniformity of approach and compliance across the region, while respecting the sovereignty of Member States in determining the modalities of national implementation.

Section 3 – Financing Alignment

The successful implementation of Agenda 2074 requires a coherent and sustainable financing framework that aligns regional and national resources with the objectives of social equity, digital transformation, and governance innovation. To this end, the CODESA Development Fund (CDF) shall serve as the primary financing mechanism for initiatives undertaken under this Circular. The CDF shall operate under a governance structure that ensures transparency, accountability, and equitable access for all Member States, with oversight provided by the COMESA Secretariat and reporting to the Council of Ministers.

In addition to its core capitalisation, the CDF shall incorporate an Agenda 2074 Integration Account as a dedicated sub-fund within the regional financing architecture. All projects and programmes financed or co-financed under COMESA auspices, including those supported by development partners and private sector actors, shall allocate one percent (1%) of their total approved budget to this account. These resources shall be earmarked for activities that promote Agenda 2074 integration, including the development of planning tools, capacity-building initiatives, compliance monitoring, and stakeholder engagement.

The COMESA Secretariat, through CODESA, shall work closely with development finance institutions, bilateral donors, and private investors to mobilise additional resources through co-financing arrangements, blended finance models, and innovative instruments such as social impact bonds. Annual financial statements for the CDF and its sub-accounts shall be published and subjected to independent audit to maintain transparency and build confidence among stakeholders.

This financing framework is designed not only to support immediate implementation but also to ensure the long-term sustainability of Agenda 2074 as a cornerstone of COMESA's development agenda.

Section 4 – Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) and Reporting Obligations

This Circular establishes a comprehensive framework for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting to ensure that the integration of Agenda 2074 is not merely declaratory but results in measurable progress

across all Member States and regional programmes. The COMESA Secretariat, acting through CODESA, shall assume primary responsibility for coordinating MEL activities, while Member States shall embed Agenda 2074 indicators within their national planning and budgeting cycles.

The MEL framework shall be harmonised with existing COMESA systems and aligned with international standards, ensuring that data collected at the national level feeds into regional dashboards for consolidated analysis. Flowhub shall serve as the authoritative digital platform for recording workplans, compliance documentation, and progress reports, thereby guaranteeing transparency and auditability.

Member States shall submit quarterly progress reports detailing the extent of Agenda 2074 integration within sectoral plans, budget allocations, and programme implementation. These reports shall include performance against agreed indicators, safeguards compliance, and stakeholder engagement outcomes. The COMESA Secretariat shall compile an annual regional report for submission to the Council of Ministers, highlighting achievements, challenges, and recommendations for corrective action.

Independent evaluations shall be conducted every three years to assess the effectiveness of Agenda 2074 integration and to identify systemic gaps requiring policy or institutional reform. Findings from these evaluations shall be shared with Member States, development partners, and relevant regional bodies to promote accountability and continuous learning.

Section 5 – Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement

Compliance with this Circular is a collective obligation of all COMESA organs, specialised agencies, and Member States. The COMESA Secretariat shall establish a compliance oversight mechanism under the authority of the Council of Ministers, supported by CODESA as the technical implementing agency.

Verification of compliance shall be carried out through periodic audits of regional strategies, national plans, and project documentation to confirm the integration of Agenda 2074 principles and indicators. Flowhub shall generate compliance scorecards for each Member State and regional programme, which shall be published annually as part of the Agenda 2074 Integration Report.

The compliance regime shall prioritise transparency and positive incentives rather than punitive measures. Member States demonstrating exemplary integration shall receive formal recognition through official communications and public disclosure, reinforcing reputational benefits and encouraging peer learning.

In cases of persistent non-compliance, the COMESA Secretariat may recommend targeted technical assistance, capacity-building interventions, or conditional approval of future project funding linked to demonstrated progress in Agenda 2074 integration. These measures are intended to safeguard the integrity of the framework while respecting the sovereignty of Member States.

By adopting this Circular, COMESA and its Member States affirm their shared commitment to embedding social equity, digital inclusion, and governance innovation at the core of regional integration, thereby ensuring that Agenda 2074 becomes a living instrument for transformative change across Eastern and Southern Africa.



Signatures

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned representatives, duly authorized by their respective governments and institutions, have signed this COMESA Circular on Adoption and Integration of Agenda for Social Equity 2074 Agreement in two original copies, each in the English language, both texts being equally authentic.

Signed in Juba, Republic of South Sudan, on [Date].

For the Government of the Republic of South Sudan

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

For the European Social Label (EUSL)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____