

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT, 2015

**Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2015
Supplement No. 18**



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Introduction

1. The present annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) covers the period from 31 March 2014 to 31 March 2015, and has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Commission's terms of reference. The report was adopted at the Commission's forty-eighth session, which was held as part of the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, which took place in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 March 2015.

Chapter I

Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The Commission, as part of its expert and ministerial segments, deliberated and made a number of recommendations on the theme "Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development". The discussions and recommendations explored key issues related to Agenda 2063 in general and the associated first 10-year plan in particular, including: implementation arrangements and capacities; integration in national and regional development plans, monitoring and evaluation; financing strategies; stakeholder participation; partnerships; and communication and outreach.

3. The Commission also discussed a number of other issues of relevance for Africa's development as part of its expert and ministerial segments, which were in the agenda of the meetings. These included: the post-2015 development agenda; data revolution; regional integration in Africa; the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024; the proposed programme budget for the period 2016–2017; the outcomes of the survey which the Commission had carried out among its partners; the African Social Development Index; the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action); United Nations system-wide support for the African Union and its NEPAD programme; regional consultations on financing for development; the Regional

Forum on Sustainable Development; the African Union financial institutions; the African Private Sector Forum; the common African position on financing for development; and the African Risk Capacity Agency.

4. At the end of its session, the Commission adopted a Ministerial Statement, which is appended to the present report as annex I. Annex II includes the nine resolutions adopted by the Commission. They provide mandates to ECA and the African Union Commission (AUC) to undertake work in key areas of relevance to Africa's development. The list of resolutions adopted is as follows:

- 928(XLVIII) Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development;
- 929(XLVIII) Third International Conference on Financing for Development;
- 930 (XLVIII) African Regional Forums on Sustainable Development;
- 931(XLVIII) Data revolution and statistical development;
- 932(XLVIII) African Social Development Index;

- 933(XLVIII) Framework for a renewed United Nations-African Union; partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027;
- 934(XLVIII) Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;
- 935(XLVIII) Least developed countries in Africa;
- 936(XLVIII) Progress and further development of the African Risk Capacity Agency.
5. The report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts is appended to the report as annex III.

Chapter II

Work of the Commission since its forty-seventh session

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

6. During the period under review, the secretariat prepared for and serviced meetings of various subsidiary bodies of the Commission, including the meetings of the intergovernmental committees of experts of the five subregional offices. The outcomes of these meetings, including the dates and venues, are contained in chapter III of the present report.

B. Other activities

1. Regular programmes

(a) Macroeconomic policy

7. The subprogramme aims to promote policies, strategies and programmes for sustainable growth and development and to contribute to economic transformation in Africa while helping to mitigate any possible adverse effects of policies. Its work is organized around seven focus areas: economic forecasting; development planning; private sector development; investment promotion; illicit financial flows; development financing; and governance and public sector management.

8. These focus areas represent the prevailing areas covered by macroeconomic policy and management. In general, while individual countries may show some deviations, Africa is manifesting greater maturity on the macroeconomic front. While this trend started from very humble beginnings at the end of the last millennium, there is great potential for further macroeconomic improvements that may set in motion virtuous cycles of development in more and more countries. At the same time, adverse effects of growth, such as increased inequality, highlight the vital role of active government policy in ensuring inclusive development processes.

9. In March, the 2014 edition of the annual flagship report of ECA, the *Economic Report on Africa*, with the theme “Dynamic industrial policy in Africa”, was

launched in collaboration with AUC. The report built upon the concept of commodity-based industrialization introduced in the 2013 report, and turned the spotlight on to institutions and industrial policy. As before, the 2014 report was launched at a number of different venues, both within and outside Africa. A related policy brief, opinion pieces and news articles were also published on the chosen theme of the report.

10. One of the major pioneering ambitions of the subprogramme and of ECA in general is to develop an Africa-oriented forecasting model. In 2014, this work continued with the development of the concept note, and the development of a prototype by the end of the year. The forecasting model is expected to be finalized and launched in 2015.

11. Also in 2014, the subprogramme released a report on the macroeconomic framework for the structural transformation of African economies. This report critically reviews existing macroeconomic frameworks and proposes an overarching macroeconomic framework, along with specific macroeconomic policies conducive to structural transformation in Africa.

12. The 2014 edition of the ECA Millennium Development Goals report, entitled “Assessing progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals”, was launched in Addis Ababa on 1 November 2014. In addition to assessing performance by African countries both individually and as a region in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, the report includes a special discussion of the initial development conditions in Africa at the time of the adoption of the goals. In addition, one section is devoted to an outline of the African common position on the post-2015 development agenda, as adopted by the African Union. Both of these special topics constituted significant contributions by ECA to the continuing process of negotiating and designing the post-2015 development agenda.

13. Working in collaboration with AUC, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa,

ECA conducted a regional consultative meeting on the post-2015 accountability framework in August 2014, at which it brought together sherpas of the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and participants from civil society, Governments and the private sector in the region. The outcome document outlined key elements of an accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda from an African perspective.

14. Throughout the year the subprogramme worked in partnership with AUC on the production and dissemination of the African common position on the post-2015 development agenda, the translation of the related documents into goals and targets and the development of an advocacy strategy. Most elements of the African common position have been reflected in the proposal submitted by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals.

15. The expertise accumulated throughout the process should prove of benefit in the negotiations and formulations leading to finalization of the global development agenda. In particular, the outcome document of the regional consultative meeting on accountability frameworks has served as an input into the synthesis report of the Secretary-General, which will in turn inform the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. Follow-up activities and information-sharing will continue throughout 2015 in order to ensure that African perspectives and priorities are reflected in the final global document.

16. ECA also contributed extensively to the Pan-African Conference on Inequalities in the Context of Structural Transformation, held in Accra in April 2014. The conference was organized by the Government of Ghana, in partnership with ECA, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Millennium Campaign, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, the Danish International Development Agency, the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, the Society for International Development and Third World Network-Africa. The participants, numbering more than 250, came from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, universities, civil society and the private sector. The conference culminated in a draft policy statement calling upon all Governments and stakeholders to make the reduction of inequalities in Africa a priority in their current and forthcoming development agendas. In addition, the discussions, conclusions and proceedings of the confer-

ence, including background papers and country case studies on inequalities, constitute substantive sources of information that are useful in all policy work by the subprogramme.

17. A report entitled "Economic development planning in Africa: 50 years of experience" was finalized in 2014 and is to be published in 2015. This report assesses the planning experiences of nine African countries from all five subregions, with the objective of informing policymakers in relation to their current development planning practices and policy work.

18. In May 2014, a collaborative effort with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs resulted in ECA hosting a regional outreach meeting for the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The committee was formed after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, and mandated by the General Assembly to produce a report proposing options for an effective financing strategy in achieving sustainable development objectives. To this end, the outreach meeting gathered the views of African stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, for consideration by the committee. The meeting was attended by over 60 participants and resulted in a chair's summary outlining key issues and priorities for development financing in Africa. The chair's summary also informed the committee's final report.

19. Work on mobilizing development finance continued during the Ninth African Development Forum, held in October 2014 in Morocco, under the theme "Innovative sources of financing Africa's transformation". The Forum provided a platform for prominent African stakeholders to share key information and participate in focused and in-depth discussions on issues relating to the four thematic areas: domestic resource mobilization, illicit financial flows; private equity; and new forms of partnership. The meeting resulted in the Marrakech Consensus, which outlines key commitments towards innovative financing for Africa's transformation.

20. The subprogramme also produced two studies examining the role of public-private partnerships in enhancing domestic private sector development in the energy and construction sectors in Africa. The drafts of the two studies were discussed at expert group meetings in December 2014, and will be published in early 2015.

21. In addition, ECA hosted the ninth annual African Economic Conference, in Addis Ababa from 1 to 3 November 2014. The conference was organized jointly with the African Development Bank and UNDP on the theme “Knowledge and innovation for Africa’s transformation”, and gathered a total of 187 participants. Ten of the fifteen researchers who presented academic papers fell in the category of “young researcher” – below the age of 40 – and three of the researchers were women. The other participants were African government officials and representatives of academic institutes and universities from across Africa and abroad. Other regional and multilateral bodies represented at the conference included the New Economic Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Members of the private sector and a variety of media were also present.

22. ECA also supported the work of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa and contributed to its report. The report is based on five country case studies, regional consultations, country visits to South Africa and Mauritius, and interactions with partners in the United States of America and Europe. ECA contributed three chapters of the report and provided communications support and technical advice to the panel. In January 2015, the panel’s report was submitted to the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government and launched both regionally and globally.

23. The third edition of the *African Governance Report*, on the theme “Elections and the management of diversity in Africa”, was launched and disseminated in collaboration with UNDP in June 2014. The report was also launched and disseminated by subregional offices in Central Africa (Cameroon) and Southern Africa (Zambia). By the end of 2014, approximately 1,500 copies of the report (800 in English and 700 in French) had been distributed to policymakers, researchers and stakeholders. Over the second half of the year, work on the fourth edition of the report intensified. This edition focuses on the theme “Measuring corruption in Africa”. In July 2014, ECA convened an expert group meeting in Addis Ababa to explore the theme and methodology of the fourth *African Governance Report*, and a background paper on the report was finalized later in the year. A draft version will be presented at an external review meeting in the first quarter of 2015, before data collection processes are initiated in ten African countries. The fourth edition is expected to be completed in 2015.

24. The Regional Anti-Corruption Programme for Africa 2011–2016, an initiative mounted by ECA in collaboration with the African Union, produced a draft study entitled “Corruption in public procurement systems in Africa: the case of the infrastructure sector”. The study’s specific objective is to provide African policymakers with an investigative assessment of the impact of corruption on public procurement in Africa. It also examines the negative domino effect that corruption in procurement has on infrastructure development and structural transformation. The study will be presented at an external review meeting in the first quarter of 2015 and published later in the year.

25. During 2014, the subprogramme, in cooperation with the ECA African Minerals Development Centre, also started working on a study entitled “Illicit financial flows and domestic resource mobilization”. The objective of the study is to support African countries, in particular those exporting minerals, in their efforts to gain a clearer understanding of the nature of illicit financial outflows and their main sources and to provide recommendations on how to address policy challenges arising in efforts to tackle illicit financial flows. The study will be finalized in the first quarter of 2015.

(b) Regional integration and trade

26. This subprogramme prioritized support for Africa’s efforts to establish a continental free trade area and a common market by 2017. ECA designed policies and programmes that strengthen the process of economic cooperation and integration in furtherance of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The subprogramme provides policy-oriented research on the linkages between investment policy and the principal driving forces of regional integration, namely, land, agriculture, food security, energy, infrastructure, trade and industrialization.

27. Regional integration is a key strategy for development and it is expected to produce considerable economic gains for Africa, although, as things stand, the continent still trades little with itself. In 2014, ECA provided evidence-based policy support to countries aimed at enhancing their capacity to mobilize resources for development and improve private sector competitiveness. It assessed investment needs and opportunities within the regional economic communities and Africa in general, with particular attention to the needs of regional projects; the promotion of agricultural and rural development, food security and land management; and

the growth of agribusiness and value chains in Africa, and provided evidence-based analysis of the extent to which Africa's export expansion has been accompanied by a commensurate diversification of its trade.

28. Good progress has been made in furthering the initiative on boosting intra-African trade and promoting a continental free trade area among member States and regional economic communities. The initiative was formulated in response to a directive from the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-third ordinary session, in June 2014, that expressly requests AUC, ECA, the African Development Bank and other relevant agencies to take appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the road map on the continental free trade area and the boosting of intra-African trade. ECA, in collaboration with AUC and UNDP, has been working closely with the regional economic communities and selected member States on the implementation of the initiative. Consultative meetings have been held with the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Arab Maghreb Union, Gabon, Nigeria, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania, resulting in draft action plans for several countries and for the Arab Maghreb Union. All member States and regional economic communities have passed resolutions assigning focal points for their action plans on the continental free trade area and boosting intra-African trade initiative. The initiative has been endorsed by African Heads of State, with the aim of increasing trade among African member countries and, ultimately, the establishment of a continental free trade area in 2017, which, in turn, will boost incomes, add value to goods and enhance living standards among the people of Africa.

29. In March 2014, ECA and AUC presented a proposed methodology for an African regional integration index to the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance at their Seventh Joint Annual Meetings. Both bodies passed resolutions supporting the index. The project was then merged with a similar initiative mounted by the African Development Bank and ECA. The Bank and AUC finalized a joint methodology and road map to implement this much anticipated project. ECA contributed to the development of metadata and questionnaires for the indicators, and also undertook to train professional staff in 11 member States and three

regional economic communities in the use of the new indicators and the collection of data for the index.

30. To date, a substantial volume of data has been collected for the index, including partial data for 52 countries under as many as 26 of the indicators used in the index. ECA has already begun drafting the analytical report on the index and presented a first progress report on the index to the Committee of Directors General of African National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa at their first joint session, held in Tunis in December 2014. During this period, the ECA Observatory on Regional Integration in Africa became fully operational and was regularly updated, so that it could serve as a repository of real-time data on country profiles, treaties and other sources of information.

31. In 2014, ECA research bore fruit in new analyses of the impact of economic partnership agreements. The African Trade Policy Centre was closely involved in the process of negotiating these agreements, in coordination with AUC. Acting on the request of concerned stakeholders and in close coordination with relevant regional economic communities, ECA undertook to study the impact of economic partnership agreements in the West Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa subregions. The results for these two subregions are also indicative of the more general situation in other African subregions and regional configurations. The study, based on computable general equilibrium simulations, assessed whether economic partnership agreements would support Africa's transformation and regional integration efforts. Research showed that African countries are unlikely to reap substantial benefits from these agreements, with the exception of a few countries, not included in the least developed country category, that exported previously sensitive agricultural products (primarily rice, sugar, dairy products and meat). In addition, simulation findings made a strong case for the sequencing of trade liberalization in such a way that effective regional integration would be implemented before economic partnership agreements.

32. During 2014, ECA provided capacity-building support to the African group of negotiators in Geneva in the run-up to the ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which resulted in the consolidation of the African group position on the WTO post-Bali work programme. For example, in collaboration with the Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the United Nations Office at Geneva, the African Trade Policy Centre financed and organized

a post-Bali retreat for the African group of ambassadors and experts for the purpose of strengthening that group position.

33. The subprogramme's work on the future of trade relations between the United States of America and Africa included producing a white paper on future economic relationships and the development of guidelines for a national response strategy to the African Growth and Opportunity Act, accompanied by a monitoring and evaluation framework to track the performance of eligible countries in obtaining trade benefits under the Act. This exercise provided the basis for eligible countries to develop their own response strategies. Since the development of the framework, Ethiopia, Lesotho and Zambia have finalized their national response strategies. In response to the momentum thus generated and the demand from eligible countries for this initiative, the African Development Bank has started collaborating with ECA on this activity.

34. ECA undertook a major review of bilateral investment policies and the bilateral investment treaties landscape in Africa, with a view to exploring the prospects for regional integration in Africa and its implications. It surveyed 36 African countries, reviewing their investment policies and bilateral investment treaties. The main objective of the study was to assess the prevalence, scope and application of such policies and treaties in Africa and their contribution to investment; to identify key issues, concerns and challenges arising from these agreements; to examine their regional integration dimensions; and to come up with appropriate policy recommendations. The survey targeted a wide range of policymakers and stakeholders, including investment promotion agencies, chambers of commerce and ministries of trade, finance and planning. This work has resulted in increased advocacy for African countries to renegotiate their bilateral investment treaties, so as to make them more responsive to their development needs.

35. ECA also undertook a major policy study on private equity as a potential alternative source of investment in support of development efforts in Africa. The foreword to this publication was prepared by the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, conveying strong endorsement for this undertaking by ECA. Further advocacy efforts were mounted in the context of the Ninth African Development Forum, held in Marrakech in October 2014, which is expected to result in the adoption by a number of member States of policy recommendations to create an environment more conducive

to private equity investments, which are already on the increase across Africa, in particular in such countries as Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.

36. ECA work in 2014 on agricultural issues included the provision of training for member States in emerging trends in international agricultural markets and the strategic interests of African countries. It also provided capacity development support to the African group in relation to the post-Bali work programme and the revived negotiations over agriculture issues, helping to strengthen the negotiating positions of the Africa group in its endeavour to promote regional integration and the establishment of the continental free trade area.

37. The African Union–ECA Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, held in May 2014, made commitments to adopt and implement the seven principal goals of the programme for Africa's accelerated agricultural growth and transformation by 2015 and, for its part, the subprogramme led the work of drafting the mandated report on the state of food and nutrition security in Africa. The aim of the report is to record the consensus views of the African organizations involved on how best to meet the political commitments relating to food and nutrition security, with the aim of achieving a hunger-free Africa by 2025.

38. In the area of land management in Africa, six regional economic communities and two member States, with ECA support, have developed work plans for the implementation of the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa. In June 2014, ECA submitted its implementation status report on the Declaration, along with a proposed monitoring and evaluation mechanism and a capacity development framework, at two expert group meetings on the African land agenda hosted by the Land Policy Initiative. The Land Policy Initiative is a joint programme of AUC, ECA and the African Development Bank, with a mandate to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa. ECA also organized a parliamentary training session for member States on large-scale land-based investments.

39. ECA contributed discussion papers to, and provided services for, the third session of the African Union Conference of African Ministers of Transport, held in Malabo in April 2014. The Conference considered and adopted the Road Safety Charter for Africa and the African regional review on the status of implementation

of the Almaty Programme of Action. In addition, ECA organized a regional seminar on promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, which focused on investment and financing challenges. The Regional Forum on the Implementation of Cross-Border Transport Infrastructure Projects in Africa was initiated by ECA in 2014, as a platform for the monitoring and evaluation of such infrastructure projects, and the first meeting of the Forum was convened in July 2014. Lastly, ECA convened one regional meeting on the localization of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Africa, and another on the bilateral investment treaties landscape in Africa.

(c) Innovation, technology and management of Africa's natural resources

40. The strategic focus of the subprogramme is to promote the adoption and implementation of initiatives in the areas of natural resources management, climate change and new technologies, with a view to promoting economic and social transformation in Africa. In 2014, ECA continued research into, and the advocacy of, innovations and technological systems as engines of economic growth, with the aim of enhancing the capacity of member States to implement policy reforms designed to green their economies and to ensure the effective use and management of their mineral resources. In addition – and within the framework of the Climate for Development in Africa programme (ClimDev-Africa), a joint initiative of ECA, AUC and the African Development Bank – the subprogramme continued to support member States in their efforts to meet the challenges of climate change in key development sectors, by putting in place appropriate plans and mechanisms to factor climate risks into national development priorities, policies, strategies and programmes.

41. Efforts by ECA bore fruit in 15 capacitybuilding initiatives adopted by member States, regional economic communities and AUC, designed to nurture and harness new technologies and innovations for development at national and subregional levels. These initiatives include: the development of an e-government indicator manual and the e-government strategy in Guinea; the development of continental guidelines on open government and open government data in Africa; and the formulation of implementation plans for an information and communications technology policy in Cameroon, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana and Morocco.

ECA has also started providing assistance to Namibia in the development and implementation of the country's e-government indicators.

42. In addition, ECA facilitated discussions on the use of agricultural biotechnology for the transformation of Africa and launched the process of developing a methodological framework to support efforts by countries to raise their profile in science, technology and innovation. It also contributed to the African meeting on innovation, science and technology (IST-Africa 2014), held in Mauritius in May 2014, the annual conference on technologically enhanced education and training in Africa (e-Learning Africa), held in Kampala in May 2014, and the high-level meeting for a 10-year review of progress on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, organized by the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva in June 2014.

43. In partnership with the Government of Nigeria, ECA organized the third meeting of the African Internet Governance Forum, held in Abuja in July 2014, and participated in the ninth annual meeting of the global Internet Governance Forum, held in Istanbul in September 2014. These meetings provided opportunities to deepen understanding on each area of focus and to outline expected results and the corresponding activities that must be implemented to strengthen the contribution of this sector to Africa's transformative agenda.

44. In 2014, ECA engaged with a wide range of institutions and networks of innovators. These included the Researchers, Inventors and Innovators Association of Ethiopia (RIIAE), 10 African universities and 8 technology development and marketing agencies. ECA provided assistance to individual researchers and helped to improve the technical skills of students and researchers in designing and marketing technological innovations for improved health-care outcomes in such countries as Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia.

45. Member States have demonstrated a growing interest in promoting an inclusive green economy and inclusive green growth for their sustainable transformation and development agendas. This is evidenced by requests made at a number of regional and global forums, including sessions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), conferences of African ministers of finance, planning and economic development, the Africa regional preparatory conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Conference itself, and the African regional

implementation meeting on follow-up processes to that Conference. The adoption of the African Green Economy Partnership by AMCEN sends a strong signal that Africa is committed to implementing the green inclusive economy agenda to further its sustainable development aspirations. This interest and demonstrated commitment constitute a strategic opportunity that ECA must leverage to ensure effective delivery of its work on the green economy.

46. Accordingly, the subprogramme has enjoined African experts and policymakers from the region to identify, validate, and better articulate the necessary enabling measures for an inclusive green economy in Africa. In addition, the preparation of a report and convening of an ad hoc expert group meeting on integrated assessment tools and the methodology for an inclusive green economy in Africa has helped to enhance understanding, multi-stakeholder dialogue, networking and experience-sharing on integrated assessment tools and methodologies.

47. The subprogramme has focused on five countries – Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique and Tunisia – for which case studies on the inclusive green economy and structural transformation are being conducted. Research outputs for Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gabon and Tunisia have been presented and disseminated to key policymakers and experts, duly enhancing their understanding, and promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue, networking and coordination on inclusive green economy policies and structural transformation in those countries.

48. ECA has assisted three African countries – Lesotho, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania – in implementing their country mineral visions and has commissioned a number of research studies and capacity-building activities aimed at creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the African Mining Vision. Following requests from Ghana and Guinea, the ECA-administered African Minerals Development Centre has also started providing technical assistance to them in designing their country mining visions. In November 2014, a technical assessment team from the African Minerals Development Centre undertook a mission to Guinea to review that country's mining fiscal regime and its compliance with the African Mining Vision. The mission resulted in the design and development of a mining model agreement for the second Simandou iron-ore block, tenders for which are to be invited in the near future.

49. UNDP, as an implementing partner of the African Minerals Development Centre, hosted a meeting on implementation of the African regional project on the extractive sector in support of the Africa Mining Vision, which reviewed the draft step-by-step guide developed in support of the country mining vision handbook. The meeting also reviewed progress made towards preparing national visions based on the African Mining Vision in eight countries: Angola, Guinea, Lesotho, Mozambique, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, and reaffirmed the partnership between UNDP, ECA, AUC and the African Development Bank as implementing partners of the African Minerals Development Centre.

50. In the context of the World Bank's African Minerals Geosciences Initiative – sometimes referred to as the “Billion Dollar Map” project – the African Minerals Development Centre has been enlisting the involvement in this undertaking of the African geology community. Outcomes of this collaboration include the establishment of a technical working group to address issues of geological information, including the African Minerals Geosciences Initiative.

51. In the context of the African Mining Indaba, the African Minerals Development Centre launched Africa Mining Vision Day as an opportunity to build on the outcomes of the third session of the African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development. The key achievements of African Mining Vision Day at the 2014 Mining Indaba were: familiarizing African business leaders with the contents of the African Mining Vision compact; floating the idea of an African minerals skills council; and establishing African Mining Vision Day as a permanent feature of the Indaba.

52. Against this background, the African Minerals Development Centre launched a project to review tax design and management in four mineral-exporting African countries, namely, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The project will specifically review the regulatory and fiscal policy frameworks in those countries, in particular as they relate to mineral taxation and its impact on the domestic mobilization of revenue from the minerals sector and is expected to lead to proposals for optimized tax regimes and possible tax policy and regulatory proposals. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Macroeconomic Policy Division at ECA and will strengthen the outcomes of the

Highlevel Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, led by the former South African President, Thabo Mbeki.

53. In collaboration with the ECA African Centre for Gender and Development, the African Minerals Development Centre also launched a research study on gender and mining, to review existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks in the mining sector and propose recommendations that integrate gender parity in mining policies, laws, regulations, standards and codes, thereby advancing women's economic empowerment. It also aims to explore opportunities for productive collaboration between large-scale mining corporations and small-scale mining operations.

54. ECA has continued its support for member States in meeting the challenges of climate change in key development sectors, by putting in place appropriate plans and mechanisms to take into account climate risks in national development priorities, policies, strategies and programmes. Its assistance to this end has included knowledge-generation and capacity-building activities in the areas of energy efficiency, management of loss and damage and climate-resilient agriculture, and the provision of support to countries in harnessing the gains from blue and green economies. In total, ECA has launched initiatives on the building of climate resilience in 27 member States.

55. Work on enhancing the capacity of national meteorological and hydrological stations for climate change adaptation, climate monitoring and early warning, which had been commenced in three pilot countries – Ethiopia, the Gambia and Rwanda – continued, although the process of procuring equipment to improve the quality of climate information took much longer than planned. When completed, this entire process will contribute significantly to the attainment of such objectives as improved data collection and analysis; the improved dissemination of rainfall intensity, temperature, solar radiation and humidity measurements; the preparation of well packaged data for agriculture, water, energy and road infrastructure sectors; and the production of short-term climate forecasts for the public.

56. Analytical research to inform policymaking has continued, with emphasis on the impacts of climate change on agriculture, food security and trade. Focusing on five countries in EAC and 15 in ECOWAS, this research will illuminate the linkages between climate

change, agricultural production, trade in agricultural commodities and food security.

57. In 2014, ECA took the initiative of analysing the impacts of climate change on African small island developing States, which are among the most vulnerable countries on the continent. As a follow-up to requests from African small island developing States and as recommended by different regional and international forums, ECA significantly increased its support for climate change adaptation efforts by such States in Africa – specifically, Cabo Verde, the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles. Activities implemented include research and capacity development in identifying sustainable development choices, in line with recommendations set out in the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

58. ECA published two strategic regional framework documents to support science-informed policy processes in small island developing States, entitled “Climate change in the African small island developing States: from vulnerability to resilience – the paradox of the small” and “Unlocking potentials of the blue economy: are African SIDS ready to embrace the opportunities?”.

59. The subprogramme also led the preparations for Africa's participation in the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, in September 2014, and for the extensive participation by ECA in the Climate Summit, convened by the Secretary-General in New York later that same month. At both summit meetings, specific side events were organized to ensure that Africa's perspectives were given due consideration: thus, a ministerial panel discussion on African small island developing States was held in the margins of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States; while at the Climate Summit, a side event was held on the theme: “Moving against the tide: Africa rising to seize climate change opportunities”. The side events also served as major promotional vehicles for five intellectual contributions to the climate change discourse that had been researched and published by the subprogramme. Participants at the events included three Heads of State and a number of African ministers.

60. The high point of the work of the African Climate Policy Centre in 2014 was the organization, in October that year, of the fourth annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, which was attended by more than 400 participants. The conference

was held for the first time outside ECA headquarters: in Marrakech, Morocco. A salient outcome of the Marrakech conference was a dialogue between the climate research and user communities on the key features of the Climate Research for Development platform. It was agreed that the subprogramme would serve as the secretariat for the platform.

61. Under the auspices of the ClimDev-Africa programme, an Africa Day event was organized in Lima, at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Conference on Climate Change, with the theme: “Africa in the post-2015 new climate agreement”. The event, supported by AUC and the African Development Bank, was very well attended, with the participation of ministers representing AMCEN, Framework Convention focal points from African countries, members of the secretariats of other ministerial conferences, representatives of NEPAD and other development partners. A dinner dialogue was also organized on the same occasion, on the theme: “Providing climate services for Africa’s transformation agenda: in what ways can we do more?”

(d) Statistics

62. The subprogramme on statistics is the responsibility of the ECA African Centre for Statistics, which is working to enhance the capacity of member States to produce and disseminate high quality statistics through a range of advocacy measures and the provision of technical assistance in the design and implementation of their national strategies for the development of statistics.

63. Most member States have by now designed their first generation national strategies, and ECA and the African Development Bank are conducting evaluations of these while promoting the development of second generation strategies. Rwanda has recently designed and ratified its second generation strategy. In 2014, the Comoros, Djibouti, Nigeria and Togo all made progress in developing legal frameworks and establishing autonomous statistical agencies. Other countries, including Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, have increased government support and received further donor assistance through their United Nations country programmes for the further development of their own national strategies for the development of statistics.

64. The fourth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa was held from 8 to 12 December 2014, in Tunis. The Commission provides a forum for promoting

the development of national statistical systems in Africa and improving the quality and comparability of statistics compiled by member countries. At its fourth meeting, the Commission reviewed progress and trends in the development of statistical systems. It also identified statistical development issues requiring attention, including the data revolution in Africa and its implications for the post-2015 development agenda (further details on this process may be found in chapter III below, in the report on the work of the Statistical Commission).

65. The sixth meeting of the Forum for African Statistical Development, which preceded the fourth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa, was attended by representatives of African countries, bilateral and international institutions, the United Nations Secretariat and agencies, African statistical training centres, and regional and subregional organizations. The theme of the meeting was “Fostering coordination, collaboration and partnerships in support of statistical development in Africa”. It created an opportunity for all stakeholders of the statistical development process in Africa to set up a permanent system for the monitoring of that process in Africa and to strengthen modalities for cooperation, with a view to leveraging each partner’s comparative advantage.

66. An expert group meeting on the use of mobile devices for data collection was also conducted, as part of the run-up to the first joint session of the Committee of Directors General of African National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa. A background document was prepared as a pilot for country studies. The ultimate purpose of this activity is to produce a publication to guide the use of mobile devices in data collection. African experts from member States participated in the expert group meeting, together with an expert from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and an expert from the United States Census Bureau. The draft background document was presented to guide discussions on the implementation of this new and innovative tool in data collection and statistical production.

67. African Statistics Day was widely celebrated on 18 November 2014 by the majority of African countries. The main objective of the event is to raise awareness of the important role played by statistics in all aspects of social and economic development in Africa. It provides an opportunity to campaign for the systematic and increased use of statistics for evidenced-based decision-making, with a view to ensuring the relevance of

statistics, mainstreaming statistics into national development plans, using statistics in the design of country programmes, and monitoring the Millennium Development Goals. For 2014, African Statistics Day was celebrated on the theme: “Open data for accountability and inclusiveness”. ECA designed and circulated posters, communiqués and materials to be used in celebrating the event, which comprised a range of national workshops, appearances on the media by senior officials and the release of surveys and data results.

68. The African Centre for Statistics continued to provide leadership in the implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. The programme is supported by an array of pan-African institutions, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations that form the programme’s core group. In December 2014, the core group, working in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division, facilitated a workshop in Addis Ababa that gave guidance to country experts in the newly revised Principles and Recommendations for Vital Statistics Systems. In all, 37 African experts, drawn from civil registration and national statistics offices, participated in this workshop.

69. The regional civil registration and vital statistics initiative has successfully promoted collaboration among relevant stakeholders at the country level – primarily the statistics offices and civil registration authorities. The ninth African Symposium on Statistical Development was held in Gaborone, from 17 to 21 February 2014. This symposium, the third in a series of five symposiums focusing on civil registration and vital statistics, brought together the two main authorities involved in this work in African countries, namely, the civil registration offices and the national statistics offices, to discuss issues related to the implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, with specific emphasis on promoting the use of civil registration and vital statistics in support of good governance in Africa.

70. The programme has helped to galvanize momentum across the world, persuading development partners and donors of the urgent need to improve the systems of civil registration and vital statistics. A global meeting on civil registration and vital statistics was held in Addis Ababa on 28 and 29 April 2014, co-hosted by ECA, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank and sponsored by the Government of Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss investment in

and the acceleration of efforts to strengthen the civil registration and vital statistics system, building on the current regional and global momentum. A draft investment plan, developed by the World Bank, for the scaling up of civil registration and vital statistics was discussed.

71. The 2010 round of population and housing censuses in Africa was an unprecedented success in terms of the number of countries that participated, with a total of 47 – nine more than in the 2000 round. The Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Madagascar are planning to conduct censuses in 2015. The Sierra Leone census that had been planned for 2014 was postponed owing to the Ebola crisis. Another significant achievement of the 2010 census round was the conduct of censuses by four countries that had missed the 1990 and 2000 rounds: Angola – after 44 years, Djibouti – after 26 years, Liberia – after 24 years and Togo – after 29 years.

72. Along with the African Development Bank, the United Nations Population Fund and Statistics South Africa, ECA played a major role in encouraging African countries to undertake national censuses: this effort contributed to the most comprehensive coverage ever by African countries. In 2014, ECA, in partnership with the African Development Bank, completed an assessment of the 2010 round of censuses in Africa and presented it to the United Nations Statistical Commission and to the Statistical Commission for Africa, in December 2014. The assessment report was based on a survey conducted by the United Nations Statistical Division and the United States Bureau of the Census in 2011 and 2012, and also on a detailed assessment undertaken by ECA and the African Development Bank in eight African countries in 2013. The report focused on four major themes: planning and management; quality assurance; use of technology; and processing, dissemination, analysis and use. It also put forward key recommendations for the 2020 census round. In addition to highlighting the unprecedented achievement by the continent, with 47 countries conducting at least one population and housing census in the 2010 round, it also drew attention to the use of technology and improved processing and dissemination of data. It identified the challenges faced and put forward radical suggestions for the 2020 round, which began in January 2015.

73. The African project on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts was developed by the African Group on National Accounts under the auspices of the Statistical Commission for Africa and officially

launched in January 2014. It brings together member States, regional economic communities, pan-African institutions, the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT) and regional and international organizations and development partners. The project deals with the challenges that African countries face in producing timely and good quality national accounts and economic statistics. ECA hosts the secretariat of the project and is in charge of coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. It is also the lead agency for the compilation of technical documents.

74. Two technical manuals were also produced in 2014: a handbook on the supply and use of tables: compilation, application and good practices, and a guidebook on use of administrative data in national accounts. Both manuals were discussed by member States at separate expert group meetings and the necessary improvements were made to them.

75. ECA is leading the training component of the action plan for Africa under the global strategy for improving agricultural and rural statistics, for which two manuals have been developed, a policy guide on the development of human resources for agricultural statistics and a handbook on a framework for the analysis of agricultural statistics training needs, along with four syllabuses: on sampling design for agricultural surveys; on agricultural data processing and dissemination; on economic accounts for agriculture; and on agricultural censuses and surveys.

76. In January 2014, working through the African Institute for Development and Economic Planning, ECA organized a training course for human resource managers from agricultural statistics offices, to equip them with the necessary skills, among other things, to design human resource policies in support of agricultural statistics; and to conduct assessments of training needs in, and to develop a capacity-building strategy for, agricultural statistics. In all, 45 human resource managers and officers responsible for the development of agricultural statistics from 23 countries attended the course. Another course was held in August 2014 for agricultural statisticians in economic accounts for agriculture. The objective was to enable the staff and experts of African agricultural statistics agencies to produce timely and reliable information on agriculture, rural development and food security by conducting improved agricultural censuses and surveys using modern systems.

77. The *African Statistical Yearbook* is a recurrent publication jointly produced by ECA, the African Development Bank and AUC. An expert group meeting for the external validation of statistical data was held in March 2014, at which the yearbook was submitted for review and validation by representatives of 34 countries. Consensus was reached between ECA, the Bank and AUC on the need to close data gaps and improve the quality of the published data, by implementing appropriate validation arrangements. The 2014 edition of the yearbook can be consulted at the address: http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/publications/african_statistical_yearbook_2014.pdf.

78. To improve the availability and use of geospatial information, ECA is continuing to develop a wide range of information and knowledge resources, applications and services for development at the national, regional and subregional levels.

79. The African Geodetic Reference Frame, a project implemented jointly by ECA and AUC, is designed to unify the many geodetic reference frames of Africa, taking data from a network of permanent global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) stations as the primary data source for the realization of such a uniform reference frame. Numerous national mapping agencies and universities in Africa, international agencies and organizations have installed suitable geodetic-grade GNSS receivers at many locations throughout Africa. In 2014, ECA finalized the logistical details for the roll-out of nearly 90 donated reference stations. Working in consultation with the international steering committee for the African Geodetic Reference Frame, ECA has selected and agreed to install the donated stations in a number of countries in East, Central, Southern and West Africa.

80. ECA, AUC and the international steering committee organized an expert meeting on the African Geodetic Reference Frame on 8 and 9 December 2014, in Tunis, in preparation for the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa. The main aim of the meeting was to review and assess the current status and future development of the African Geodetic Reference Frame, with the attendance of some 30 participants.

81. The African Centre for Statistics, through its Geo-information and Sectoral Statistics Section, also convened the inaugural meeting of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa. A transitional bureau was elected and

four working groups established, with ECA serving as secretariat. On the basis of this configuration, coordinated and concerted efforts will be made to standardize and harmonize geospatial information on the African continent. This undertaking is critical for the continent's social and economic development at all levels, and also serves to underpin the monitoring of the sustainable development goals.

82. Regional geospatial databases are being developed and continuously updated to support regional initiatives. The Second Level Administrative Boundaries (SALB) dataset project was revitalized in 2014 by the United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations Cartographic Section, with ECA as the African focal point for the project. As part of its work to coordinate the project with African countries, ECA has concluded a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Ethiopia on the sharing of SALB datasets. Following up on the request from the United Nations Statistics Division to all African countries to share their datasets, focal points in Africa have been contacted by the African Centre for Statistics and, to date, SALB datasets have been received from Botswana and Côte d'Ivoire.

(e) Capacity development

83. The aim of this ECA subprogramme is to strengthen the capacity of member States, pan-African institutions, regional economic communities and other intergovernmental organizations to formulate, implement and monitor evidence-based policies and programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels in support of Africa's development. The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Capacity Development Division, which works to strengthen the governance structure of the African Union and its organs, including the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism and the regional economic communities, in deepening regional integration within the context of Agenda 2063. In 2014, ECA provided technical support to the African Union and NEPAD related to Agenda 2063, including research, advisory services, workshops and seminars. ECA also provided support for the process of aligning existing national development plans with Agenda 2063.

84. In addition, the subprogramme delivers policy advisory services to national, subregional and regional institutions and assists them in the formulation of strat-

egies, programmes and projects, including the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

85. ECA is also responsible for coordinating the work of United Nations agencies working in Africa, through the regional coordination mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa). In 2014, United Nations entities continued to improve the alignment of their programmes with those of AUC, the NEPAD Agency and the regional economic communities. The fifteenth session of RCM-Africa was held in Abuja, from 28 to 30 March 2014. At the session, the participants agreed to further consultations with the secretariat of the United Nations Development Group on developing linkages between RCM-Africa, the subregional coordination mechanism, the Regional Directors Team of the United Nations Development Group, and the United Nations country teams, with a view to strengthening coherence and coordination, and thereby ensuring better support from the United Nations for the African Union.

86. At the fifteenth session, it was also recommended that AUC, in consultation with the United Nations, should set up a technical working group made up of representatives from the United Nations, the African Union, the NEPAD Agency, the regional economic communities and the African Development Bank, to formulate a comprehensive, long-term United Nations programme of support for the African Union, given that the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union is due to come to an end in 2016. To that end, the capacity development subprogramme supported and coordinated the work of the new technical working group, which is currently developing a framework for a new partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

87. In response to requests from the African Union, the subprogramme undertook a capacity development mapping and scoping exercise for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the East African Community; and two capacity development scoping and mapping reports were provided for the Economic Community of Central African States and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States. The purpose of the scoping and mapping initiative is to provide practical and strategic guidance to the full roll-out of the African Union's multi-agency capacity development programme, which is designed to ensure a coordinated approach to capacity development in Africa. In addition, ECA has developed a handbook focused on quality, results and suitability for the provision of advisory services to member States.

88. The year 2014 also saw the alignment of RCM-Africa clusters with the African Union's strategic plan for 2014–2017 and Agenda 2063. The subregional coordination mechanism's major achievements in 2014 included a study on the feasibility of a self-financing mechanism for regional integration conducted with regard to strengthening the capacities of the Arab Maghreb Union, and a regional food security programme in East Africa covering six pilot countries and mainstreaming intelligent transport systems in corridor infrastructure. Furthermore, throughout the year, RCM-Africa has continued to pursue the implementation of demand-driven business plans focusing on key cluster activities that respond to the priorities of AUC and the regional economic communities. Subregional coordination mechanisms are now operational in all five subregions, with the mechanism for North Africa officially established in June 2014, with seven thematic clusters.

89. ECA continues to be a strategic partner of the African Peer Review Mechanism and its secretariat, together with UNDP and the African Development Bank. In 2014, ECA continued to provide support to member States in various aspects of the African Peer Review Mechanism process through country support missions. ECA provided support to the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism for the harmonization of the national plans of action of Lesotho and Zambia with their existing medium-term expenditure frameworks. ECA also participated in the African Peer Review Mechanism mission in support of the Government of Senegal and assisted with concluding a memorandum of understanding between the Government of Senegal and the African Peer Review Panel; a road map for Senegal; and an African Peer Review Mechanism national action plan.

90. To ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed into the African Peer Review Mechanism, ECA carried out a study entitled "African Peer Review Mechanism and managing diversity: the gender dimension", which examines the extent to which gender issues are embedded in the African Peer Review Mechanism process. The study is intended to enhance the relevance and impact of the African Peer Review Mechanism on gender equality in Africa. In addition, an expert group meeting was organized to validate the report, which brought together representatives from the subregions and NEPAD to discuss the issues hampering the implementation of gender initiatives at the national, subregional and regional levels.

91. The tragic outbreak of Ebola in West Africa in 2014 demonstrated the need for ECA to be able to respond rapidly to urgent government or regional needs. The study undertaken at the behest of AUC and the affected member States on the economic and social impact of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone provided a critically important African analysis of the impact of the virus on the affected countries as well as on the region as a whole.

92. In addition, ECA is leading work to determine the root causes of conflict in three parts of Africa (Great Lakes, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa) and the related development consequences, in order to untangle the relationship between conflict and development. The outcomes of the studies and related workshops and seminars will be used as input into conflict resolution efforts on the continent and the search for sustainable solutions.

93. In 2014, ECA also provided support for the development of sustainable tourism plans for Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda, based on the principles of ecotourism. In the same context, a regional sustainable tourism plan was developed for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

94. Complementarity of action is evident from collaboration with other United Nations agencies and partners, as well as among ECA subprogrammes (for instance, the Ebola study). Notable examples relate in particular to cooperation with UNDP and the African Development Bank in the area of capacity development for the regional economic communities as well as in African Peer Review Mechanism efforts. ECA, UNDP, the African Development Bank and the World Bank also collaborated in organizing the Dakar Financing Summit, which took place in June 2014.

(f) Gender and women in development

95. The subprogramme aims to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of global and regional commitments on gender equality by increasing the number of member States and regional economic communities that implement and report on gender equality and women's empowerment obligations; addressing emerging issues that impact on women; and mainstreaming gender concerns into national policies and programmes.

96. The subprogramme's main work consisted of: cutting-edge policy research and knowledge management (establishing a new knowledge platform for experience sharing); country-specific comprehensive studies; the strengthening of the use of existing tools such as the African Gender and Development Index; the development of transformative tools and approaches to inform policymaking; and tailored, hands-on capacity-building activities for middle-level and senior-level policymakers at the national and subregional levels to mainstream gender and women's concerns into socioeconomic policies and public finance.

97. One of the goals of the repositioned ECA is to ensure that women participate in and benefit equally from Africa's structural transformation. The continent-wide initiative for gender equality and women's empowerment, developed by the African Centre for Gender, which is part of the Social Development Policy Division of ECA, was endorsed at the seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the Conference of Ministers, in March 2014, and informed the Commission's 2014–2015 work programme on gender.

98. ECA achieved a remarkable increase in the number of member States and regional economic communities that reported progress in the implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment obligations through the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Against a target of 15 member States, 52 countries reported on the progress made in implementing the Platform, in their reports submitted to ECA for the 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Commission's summary report highlighted notable successes regarding the increased capabilities of women in social sectors, particularly primary education and health. The report was presented and endorsed at the ninth Regional Conference on Women, held in Addis Ababa in November 2014. The Conference attracted over 450 participants, including ministers, development partners, members of civil society, representatives of regional economic communities, AUC, the African Development Bank and United Nations agencies. The outcome declaration of the Conference is a critical milestone in bringing Africa's priorities into the global 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and in positioning gender equality and women's empowerment at the centre of the post-2015 development agenda, in line with the common African position, the recently proposed African development goals and Agenda 2063.

99. The African Gender and Development Index is one of the implementation tools that will be used during the continent-wide initiative for gender equality and women's empowerment, and it will also strengthen the gender component of the ECA country profiles currently being compiled by the subregional offices in collaboration with the substantive divisions of ECA. During the period under review, ECA completed the roll-out for the third phase of the implementation of the Index in 13 member States.

100. ECA also provided significant gender-specific technical support in the provision of policy recommendations for tackling the Ebola outbreak that continues to ravage parts of West Africa. One result of the African Centre for Gender's work was a chapter on the gender-disaggregated socioeconomic costs of Ebola in key sectors such as mining, agriculture, cross-border trade and unpaid care work, which was published in the Commission's report on the socioeconomic impacts of the outbreak. In addition, the Centre is providing expertise and technical guidance to the United Nations-wide technical group on Ebola recovery planning.

101. In 2014, ECA increased the number of member States and regional economic communities that made use of the knowledge generated through the African Gender and Development Index, gender statistics, gender-aware macroeconomic modelling, the African Women's Rights Observatory, and the e-network for national gender machineries to mainstream gender concerns. Policy dialogues were organized through two e-discussions held with national gender machineries to address, first, the eradication of female genital mutilation, in which 11 member States participated, and second, the African regional conference on the 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the continent's preparations for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in which nine member States took part.

102. A fact sheet entitled "Ban female genital mutilation worldwide" was produced by the subprogramme and disseminated to key stakeholders such as senior policymakers from member States, AUC, the regional economic communities, United Nations agencies, development partners and civil society organizations. This was accompanied by a web-based information map on female genital mutilation highlighting general statistics and policy recommendations on eradicating the practice. In addition, during the review period, a desk review for the compilation of a baseline study on female

genital mutilation entitled “Tracking legal and normative frameworks” was completed for 21 African countries. ECA also provided significant technical, human and financial support to the African Union Commission’s launch of a campaign to end child marriages in Africa, including the production of a fact sheet containing statistics and action-oriented policy recommendations. The fact sheet was disseminated at the official launch of the campaign to end child marriage, during the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, which took place in Addis Ababa in May 2014.

103. The 2014 edition of the *African Women’s Report*, entitled “Gender and agricultural value chains: transforming Africa’s agriculture through women’s empowerment”, looked at six selected countries (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco, Uganda and Zimbabwe). Given women’s pivotal role in agriculture, tackling gender inequality is a cost-effective way of transforming the continent’s agricultural sector.

104. The Commission’s “Compendium on good practices and initiatives on economic empowerment of women in artisanal and small-scale mining in Africa” and “Report on gender and mining in Africa” both support the operationalization of the African mining vision by providing a better understanding of gender-responsive mining policies and practices.

105. ECA also published a report on women in informal cross-border trade in Africa, following an expert review meeting in August 2014 that drew over 40 socioeconomic experts, representatives from regional economic communities, and leading development practitioners.

106. ECA also organized a hands-on capacity-building exercise on the integration of gender into socioeconomic policies and public finance for African middle- and senior-level policymakers (statisticians, economists, macroeconomists, planners and gender experts) and a “training of trainers” on gender and economic policy management (an initiative developed with UNDP and other stakeholders) aimed at training African practitioners with a view to expanding the pool of experts. Once trained, these experts can respond to member States’ requests for tailored capacity-building.

107. Internally, the subprogramme finalized the development of the Commission’s own in-house gender mainstreaming programme. The programme has four components, all of which are now under way: (a) a

review and assessment of the status of gender mainstreaming within ECA; (b) the development of a gender policy for ECA; (c) the development of a gender parity marker; and (d) a capacity development programme on gender mainstreaming.

(g) Subregional activities for development

108. Consistent with their mandate, the ECA subregional offices continued during the year under review to assist member States, regional economic communities and other subregional intergovernmental organizations in strengthening their capacity to formulate and harmonize evidence-based policies and plans in support of economic and social transformation and regional integration at the subregional level. This was accomplished through research and analytical work, the convening of expert meetings and forums and the provision of advisory services.

109. The subregional offices have worked towards this objective by strengthening their partnerships with the major regional economic communities in their respective subregions, including the Arab Maghreb Union, the Southern African Development Community, the East African Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic Community of West African States, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the Economic Community of Central African States and the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

110. The subregional offices organized and serviced a range of meetings and workshops, including the annual sessions of their respective intergovernmental committees of experts; participated in the meetings of the policy organs of the major regional economic communities; and provided technical assistance, upon request, to member States, regional economic communities and other intergovernmental organizations on institutional and sectoral issues in support of integration efforts.

111. The subregional offices also strengthened their operations for data collection, knowledge management and networking to strengthen the accuracy and credibility of the Commission’s output and outreach work. In addition, they continued to collaborate with other United Nations agencies and increased their participation in the activities of the United Nations country teams in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Develop-

ment Goals, and to influence the post-2015 development agenda. In addition, the subregional offices have made progress in enhancing the coordination of United Nations activities at the subregional level, in line with the mandate given to them by RCM-Africa, including implementation of the joint activities agreed upon by the thematic clusters at the subregional level.

112. In 2014, a major priority for the subregional offices was the preparation of country profiles, a new ECA publication series to be launched at the 2015 Conference of Ministers. The country profiles provide data, institutional and policy information, forecasts, indicators, policy and risk analysis and recommendations on key social and economic variables. The profiles will serve a number of clients, ranging from member States to academics, policymakers, civil society representatives, analysts and investors from within and outside Africa. Profiles will be prepared at the subregional and continental levels (such as the *Economic Report on Africa*), with medium-term forecasts, risk analysis and improved periodicity (annual, biannual or quarterly).

113. ECA country profiles will add value by providing timely policy analysis and forecasts from an African perspective, in addition to tracking forecasts on Africa by external institutions and providing information on the central theme of economic and structural transformation in member States. Moreover, in the process of preparing the country profiles, the primary and secondary data collected can be accessed through the ECA database, for the purpose of additional policy analysis on Africa by a wide range of data users.

114. The following sections highlight the results achieved by each subregional office.

(i) Subregional Office for North Africa

115. The Subregional Office for North Africa contributed to enhancing the capacities of member States in areas related to the countries' participation in global and regional value chains and the development of innovative and integrated policies for green and sustainable growth. The mechanism used by the Office in the preparation of country profiles was fine-tuned during the period under review. Between March 2014 and February 2015, country profiles were prepared on Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The country profile development process entails constant compilation and harmonization of data and information on each country, aggregation of the indicators to be used by regional economic com-

munities and other groups of countries, and analysis of trends, in order to help to produce forecasts in a timely manner. The spin-off effects of the preparation of country profiles will include the strengthening of member States' capacities to generate and disseminate high-quality statistics and policy analyses and to facilitate the planning and development of policies based on relevant data, in support of the subregion's development priorities.

116. The concept of green economy was addressed in four of the country profiles, in accordance with the country-specific challenges: Algeria (diversification and reduction of the dependence on hydrocarbons); Mauritania (governance of the fishery sector); Morocco (industrialization and new types of trade in Morocco); and Tunisia (green jobs and regional development). The profiles contain analyses of the vision and strategy for, and the status of, green economy in countries and present recommendations that take into account the specific features of the country concerned. Over the short term, the thematic reviews contribute to a better understanding of the vision and measures implemented by the countries. As such, they constitute a good tool for sharing experiences and establishing policy direction. The issue of subsidies and the fight against poverty and its costs were also the subjects of a thematic review as part of the 2014 country profile of Tunisia.

117. An expert panel discussion held at the twenty-ninth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts led to a technical study on regional value chains, followed by an expert meeting on trade, foreign direct investment and participation in value chains and a follow-up symposium. Those activities are part of a wider programme initiated two years ago by ECA to address the issue of the structural transformation of North Africa. The expert panel discussion provided a framework for the sharing of experiences relating to the development of regional value chains in North Africa, with a view to accelerating the diversification and sophistication of production systems and improving their integration into global value chains.

118. The findings of a study entitled "Developing regional value chains towards accelerating the diversification and sophistication of North African economies" were validated at an ad hoc expert meeting held in Rabat in November 2014. The meeting was followed by an international Mediterranean colloquium that furthered the discussion of regional value chains in an academic framework. The colloquium was a joint initiative of

ECA, the African Trade Policy Centre and WTO. Close to 50 presentations by researchers and development practitioners were given during the colloquium.

119. In 2014, the Office's partnership with the Arab Maghreb Union was strengthened, as were the partnerships between the Arab Maghreb Union and other regional institutions. A number of major subregional initiatives were formally launched. The first set of initiatives includes the mobilization of subregional partners in support of the integration process, the development of a strategy for independent financing of the Arab Maghreb Union, and the formulation of a subregional action plan for the facilitation of transport and trade. The second set of initiatives includes those relating to combating desertification and to formulating a gender strategy for the Arab Maghreb Union.

120. To further strengthen and enhance the efficiency of partnerships towards greater integration in North Africa, a regional platform in support of the Arab Maghreb Union, serving as a medium-term programming tool for the coordination and promotion of synergies among assistance actions, was adopted. The platform is focused on seven areas of intervention, closely aligned with the medium-term objectives of the Maghreb agenda, and encompasses projects and actions contemplated by the Arab Maghreb Union for the period 2014–2015, around which the partners' support will be structured. The platform was officially established during the annual meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism, held in Rabat in June 2014, at the initiative of the Subregional Office for North Africa.

121. With a view to speeding up the integration process in North Africa, the Office and the secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union had previously agreed to include in their multi-year cooperation programme a capacity-building project for the Arab Maghreb Union. One component of this is the carrying out of a feasibility study on an autonomous funding mechanism for the Arab Maghreb Union. In the light of the experiences of the other regional economic communities and based on the specificities of the subregion, the study proposed a new scheme aimed at enabling optimal coverage of the current and future financial needs of the Arab Maghreb Union, for example, funding for secretariat projects; substantive studies and analyses; integration projects and programmes; regional contributions to partner-funded activities; and structural or adjustment funds.

(ii) Subregional Office for West Africa

122. The Subregional Office for West Africa reinforced the capacity of the national statistical systems of the countries belonging to the Economic Community of West African States to compile and make available development information on the economic and social profiles of member States, particularly information on the impacts of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and to monitor the process of regional integration through the consolidated deployment and maintenance of the Eco-base database in the subregion. The Office continued to support the efforts of member States to put in place geographic information systems as a tool for development planning.

123. Complementing the actions above, the Office also reinforced its operations with six visiting fellows, and provided training on using timely and reliable statistics to enhance the analytical work underlying the preparation of the four country profiles on Ghana, Nigeria, the Niger and Senegal. The Office and the Economic Community of West African States readily adapted to innovative tools for data collection, packaging and dissemination in support of national and subregional development priorities. The Office also provided technical assistance to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for its evaluation of the national development plan, and supported the regional development plan of the Diffa area in the Niger through improved planning, management and governance at the national and local levels.

124. In 2014, there was an increase in demand-driven project requests from member States, and the Office adapted its work strategy to respond to these requests. The expanded staffing resulting from the presence of the visiting fellows allowed the Office to increase its knowledge networking among subregional colleagues specialized in economics and statistics, from national statistics offices and other relevant subregional institutions managing development-related statistics. In the area of subregional innovative initiatives, a key report was finalized on progress towards achieving regional integration in the Economic Community of West African States. The report will feature prominently during the upcoming celebrations of the fortieth anniversary of the Community.

125. An advisory mission organized by the Office was conducted to Abidjan in November 2014 to provide post-conflict support for the reconstruction of the country by helping to strengthen the country's invest-

ment project planning processes. The mission provided technical support to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire through the Ministry of Planning. The mission also contributed to reinforcing cooperation with UNDP in the country.

126. In response to the Ebola crisis in the subregion, ECA made sustained contributions through the Office's coordination of a multidisciplinary team of experts who conducted a study on the socioeconomic impacts of the disease in West Africa and across the continent. Since the study was launched in December 2014, in Niamey, the report has been updated with information on new funding to combat the spread of the disease, and statistics and economic trends resulting from the epidemic's decline. It also included the views of non-affected countries on lessons learned.

(iii) Subregional Office for Central Africa

127. The Office serves all member States of the regional economic community and economic coordination organizations of Central Africa, together with a number of other key countries whose interests are closely associated with those of the subregion. The Office also works with non-governmental organizations, the civil society, universities, research institutions and the private sector to achieve its targeted results.

128. The Office strengthened the capacity of member States, regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and other subregional development actors to formulate and harmonize evidence-based policies and plans in support of economic and social transformation in Central Africa. During 2014, the Office also enhanced member States' capacity to produce and disseminate quality and timely statistics in support of national and subregional development priorities, and strengthened the capacity of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community and the Economic Community of Central African States to accelerate the implementation of subregional initiatives.

129. The Office produced four country profiles in 2014 that provide a synthesis of economic performance (GDP, inflation, debt, finances, balance of payments, etc.), social development (unemployment, Human Development Index, Millennium Development Goals), and ongoing reforms (business climate and governance indicators) at the national and subregional levels. The countries that were profiled were Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. The profiles were reviewed during the thir-

tieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, in March 2014, in N'Djamena. The Office also provided assistance to the Central African Economic and Monetary Community and the Economic Community of Central African States by sharing its methodology for collecting and processing statistical data for the profiles, and also through its contribution to the implementation of the regional economic communities' programmes on statistics during seminars organized by the communities in March and May 2014. The Office works in close partnership with national statistics offices of the subregion to identify areas of collaboration and their capacity strengthening needs.

130. During the period under review, the Office undertook research and analytical work, convened expert meetings, and provided advisory services. It also organized the meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism.

131. In the framework of the Commission's advocacy for structural transformation in Africa, the Office organized an expert group meeting on harnessing the potential of the extractive industries for structural transformation in Central Africa, during which a report prepared by the Office was reviewed and endorsed. The meeting, held in March 2014 in N'Djamena, raised awareness among Central African countries of issues such as the management of revenues from extractive industries, the weaknesses of mining contracts, corporate social responsibility in the mining industry, the transformation of raw materials, and the training of national mining experts.

132. The Office also organized an expert group meeting on improving Central Africa's business climate. The meeting, which took place in December 2014, in Douala, Cameroon, attracted 46 participants, and was intended to review and validate a report on improving the subregion's business climate.

133. One of the Office's major projects in support of the implementation of subregional initiatives was the organization of a forum on mainstreaming the green economy into development policies in Central Africa. The road map for the upgrading of companies for the transition to a green economy in Central Africa – proposed in a report prepared by the Office – was validated and adopted during the forum. The Office has already initiated the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the road map.

134. Lastly, the Office provided advisory services to the regional economic communities and member States in the areas of: a subregional strategy for the development of statistics in Central Africa; air transport; harmonizing trade policies; implementing the subregional water policy of the Economic Community of Central African States; negotiating the economic partnership agreement; and the transition to a green economy. On United Nations cooperation, the Office spearheaded the subregional coordination mechanism. The sixth annual consultative meeting on the implementation of the NEPAD programme in Central Africa was held in Douala, in December 2014 to assess the progress made and to agree on plans to scale up and maximize the impact of the programme.

(iv) Subregional Office for East Africa

135. In 2014, the Subregional Office for East Africa, located in Kigali, strengthened the capacity of member States and the regional economic communities to formulate evidence-based plans and policies in support of economic and social transformation in the subregion. In addition to focusing on development, emphasis was placed on institutional and sectoral issues including food security, the environment, natural resources management, energy, trade and sustainable tourism.

136. The Office enhanced the capacity of member States to produce and disseminate quality and timely statistics and policy analysis in support of regional and subregional priorities. It also strengthened the capacity of the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to accelerate the implementation of subregional initiatives.

137. During 2014, the subregional office prepared eight draft country profiles. The countries covered so far are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The profiles are expected to serve a number of clients, ranging from member states to domestic and international investors seeking nuanced information on potential destinations of investments, to researchers, civil society, and analysts in East African countries.

138. The Office worked closely with the planning department of the Rwandan Ministry of Infrastructure and provided advisory services to support the formulation of the national energy policy, in particular on policy matters related to energy access, security and

the implications of regional energy policies and strategies. The Office has also formed partnerships with the Ministry of Infrastructure in strengthening the country's energy planning capacity, which is seen as a strategic and crucial component of the country's efforts to promote structural transformation and achieve middle income status by 2020. These partnerships offer a strategic opportunity to influence policymaking and strategy-setting through evidence-based knowledge delivery and policy innovation.

139. In June 2014, the Office launched a publication entitled "Energy access and security in Eastern Africa: status and enhancement pathways". The Office also worked together with the International Renewable Energy Agency and the Stockholm Environment Institute to deliver a technical training session on the long-range energy alternatives planning system and other contemporary planning approaches. The training session was held in Kigali in late 2014 for the representatives of nine countries from the subregion. The Office has also provided its expertise on the formulation of an energy security framework to the East African Community.

140. As a follow-up to the launch of the sustainable tourism plan of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, in 2014, the Office worked closely with the government bodies in supporting the operationalization of the plan in four pilot countries, namely, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. The plan has informed the development of country-specific tourism strategies, tools, policy analysis and data collection in the four selected countries. In Rwanda, tourism features prominently in the 2013–2018 United Nations Development Assistance Plan and is the component of a flagship programme on developing value chains.

141. In line with the decisions taken during the first meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism for East Africa, the Office is engaged in the implementation of three of the six flagship projects, namely, tourism, energy, and the initiative against the illegal exploitation of natural resources. The Office's work on the initiative helped to bring greater focus on how the secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and its development partners are implementing the initiative. In addition, the Office, along with the subregional office for Southern Africa, played a pivotal role in rekindling interest in the subregional coordination mechanism among the regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and United

Nations agencies operating in East and Southern Africa. This effort culminated with the most recent meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism, which was chaired throughout by the Secretary-General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

(v) Subregional Office for Southern Africa

142. The Subregional Office for Southern Africa continued to assist member States, regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and other subregional development actors to strengthen their capacity to formulate and harmonize evidence-based policies and programmes in support of economic and social transformation in the subregion. In 2014, the Office produced country profiles for four countries in Southern Africa (Angola, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The country profiles provide economic and social data, institutional and policy information, forecasts, policy, risk analysis and recommendations to serve a number of clients, ranging from member States to domestic and international investors, civil society, policy analysts and decision makers in Southern Africa and beyond.

143. The Office also continued to strengthen the capacity of regional economic communities, member States and development actors to improve the design and accelerate the implementation of subregional initiatives in Southern Africa.

144. The twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa, held in Zambia in 2014, focused on the topical theme of how to make natural resources work for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Southern Africa. The 64 delegates, drawn from member States, the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the African Union, the United Nations and development organizations, applauded the Office for its efforts to facilitate policy dialogue and knowledge and experience sharing on key development issues for Southern Africa. The session provided a platform for member States and development actors to deepen policy debate on natural resources, growth and sustainable development in the subregion. The Committee recommended specific actions for member States in the following areas: policy reforms to achieve macroeconomic convergence targets; value addition to natural resources, manufacturing and job creation; governance of natural resources; income

inequality; and capacity-building to meet social development needs.

145. The annual meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism for East and Southern Africa, held in Lusaka in November 2014, and co-organized by the two subregional offices in collaboration with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, revitalized the implementation of the 2013–2017 subregional coordination mechanism business plan, as it provided a forum for stakeholders to discuss how to scale up the implementation process and address existing implementation gaps. The participants had the opportunity to discuss, among other things, financing constraints and institutional challenges, and agreed on a detailed road map for the implementation of the business plan. The delegates commended the subregional offices and re-affirmed the critical importance of the institutional architecture of the mechanism in ensuring reduced fragmentation in the operations of United Nations agencies and increased coherence and coordination in their work in support of the programmes and priorities of East and Southern Africa.

146. As part of the initiative on strengthening statistical capacity in Southern Africa, the Office convened a subregional consultative meeting for statistics users and producers, in November 2014 in Gaborone. The meeting was organized in close collaboration with the African Centre for Statistics and the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community. During the meeting, the findings of the field missions that the Office had undertaken to six of the eleven national statistics offices in Southern Africa were reviewed, and the identified intervention areas for support were prioritized. The meeting brought together national statistics offices, the secretariats of the Southern African Development Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, UNDP, the African Centre for Statistics and other relevant stakeholders.

147. This consultative process strengthened partnerships, facilitated the consolidation of the capacity-building requirements of national statistics offices, and led to stimulating discussions on statistical harmonization in the subregion through the adoption of international standards, models and classifications, and their adaptation to the national and subregional contexts. Furthermore, the consultative process also raised awareness of the Commission's country profile initiative and its desire to strengthen the capacity of national statistics offices to facilitate the production of credible statistics for policy

purposes. This level of awareness will, in the near future, enhance the Office's access to statistical data from national statistics offices and the regional economic communities for use in policy analysis and to identify areas for direct technical assistance.

148. As part of its functional support for the work of the country teams for Southern Africa, the Office, in collaboration with the UNDP country office for Zambia, undertook a study on economic growth and inequality in Southern Africa. The study, which was reviewed at an expert group meeting in June 2014, examines the relationship between economic growth and inequality in the subregion, the nature, causes and dimensions of the problem, and the consequences and policy options that could remedy this trend in the subregion. Southern Africa has one of the highest rates of inequality in the world and the problem has both short-term and medium-term consequences for the subregion.

149. The Office also provided technical support to the Zambia-Malawi-Mozambique growth triangle initiative by facilitating a consultative meeting on the initiative, which was hosted by the Government of Mozambique, in Maputo, in December 2014. As a result, senior officials from the three member States discussed and finalized a draft memorandum of understanding that provides for the basis for cooperation, in preparation for the official signing by the ministers responsible for commerce, industry and trade from the three countries, at a ministerial meeting due to be held in 2015.

150. The Office assisted in developing a memorandum of understanding to guide development cooperation between the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the government of Western Australia in the field of mineral and petroleum resources, agriculture, vocational training and capacity-building. The Office also assisted the Common Market in the development of a project on human and institutional capacity development in the minerals sector to be implemented within the context of the memorandum, which focuses on capacity-building on policy formulation, taxation, fiscal policy frameworks, contract negotiation, mineral management and management of mineral revenues. It also seeks to contribute to the development of harmonized mining policies and legislative frameworks in the mineral sector, improved fiscal frameworks for the extraction of optimal benefits, increased value addition, beneficiation and linkages within the local economy, structural transformation and socioeconomic develop-

ment in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

151. At the request of the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community, the Office provided technical support for developing a road map and strategy on industrialization for the Southern African Development Community.

152. The Office, in collaboration with the African Minerals Development Centre, also provided technical assistance to the Southern African Development Community's mining programme, by supporting two key aspects of the initiative: the mineral sector skills assessment study and the mineral beneficiation profiling. This initiative is part of the process of harmonizing policies and regulatory frameworks in the mining sector and seeks to address a key challenge in the subregion, namely the shortage of skills along the mineral value chain. It also aims to explore prospects for mineral beneficiation and value addition in the subregion focusing on those minerals that are amenable to value addition and the development of domestic and regional linkages.

153. The Office continued to provide advisory services to the process of developing a national minerals and mining policy for Lesotho. In providing support for this assignment, ECA is guided by the request from the Government of Lesotho for assistance in developing the policy and a legal and regulatory framework to guide operations in the sector. The Government wants to develop a policy that will underpin sustainable socioeconomic growth and development and address poverty, in line with the national strategic development plan for 2012–2017 and the African Mining Vision.

154. The Office also responded to a request for technical support from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, for assistance in preparing an industrialization policy framework. Thus far, a draft policy framework has already been prepared, with the Office providing substantive technical inputs at different stages of the process.

155. In addition, the Office provided technical support to the Government of Swaziland in preparing its trade and industrial policy, which has reached an advanced stage.

(h) Development planning and administration

156. The main objective of this subprogramme, managed by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, is to improve public sector management in respect of economic policy planning and analysis and development planning by African Governments and other associated development actors. The institute's activities are organized around a portfolio of capacity development and training programmes, as well as a set of policy research and dialogue initiatives. It also offers on-demand advisory services to Governments and public institutions, and serves as a forum for alternative thinking on African development.

157. A total of 25 training courses were organized by the institute for the benefit of African countries on approaches for better integrating long-term development concerns and economic policy formulation. In 2014, 521 officials drawn from 25 member States participated in these two-week short courses. The institute also delivered its first course in Arabic, in Cairo, in partnership with the Institute of National Planning of Egypt, on the fundamentals of development planning. The course attracted 24 public officials from African Arabic-speaking countries.

158. The institute's six high-level workshops on the African economic management and development attracted experts, public officials, leaders, and representatives of the private sector and civil society from some 33 African countries. The institute carried out a number of advisory missions to support policy reform efforts in Cameroon, Morocco, Nigeria and Rwanda, and one to the NEPAD secretariat in Johannesburg. The institute also organized six public lectures, which attracted senior government officials, international organizations, embassies and civil society. In addition, four research fellowships were awarded and five research dissemination seminars were held.

159. In 2014, the institute also organized three curriculum development workshops at which curricula for six new short courses were developed and arrangements were completed to launch two masters degree programmes in 2015. The two courses – one in industrial policy, and the other in economic management and development planning – were developed in collaboration with the University of Johannesburg and the Institute of National Planning of Egypt, respectively.

160. The institute published eight discussion papers as part of a special "Africa at 50" series, and produced three episodes of a documentary series on development planning.

161. The institute developed new partnerships in 2014 with the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of East and Southern Africa, the Institute of National Planning of Egypt, the Pan-African Parliament, and the Bamanga Tukur African Institute for International Trade and Development.

(i) Social development

162. The aim of the subprogramme is to formulate appropriate social development policies that promote inclusive and equitable growth, specifically in the areas of employment and social protection, young people and population, urbanization and women's empowerment. In 2014, the subprogramme enhanced the capacity of member States to mainstream human development concerns into policies and strategies, with particular emphasis on employment, social protection, population and youth issues, in line with African and internationally agreed development goals. The subprogramme also contributed to the capacity of member States to improve policies, legislation and strategies enhancing inclusive urban planning, management and development.

163. The work done by the subprogramme was marked by a partnership with pan-African institutions, including the African Union and other United Nations agencies, through the revamping of the regional coordination mechanism and the subclusters of labour and population. RCM-Africa provides a regional focus for all United Nations agencies that programmatically integrate their Africa-specific programmes to achieve improved policy coherence and reduce transaction costs. This partnership approach was augmented by a dynamic collaboration with African research institutes and think tanks that reviewed and enhanced the Commission's analytical rigour, capacity-building and outreach strategies, and production of evidenced-based policy research.

164. There is wide recognition today that the continent's recent economic performance is not consistent with an inclusive and sustainable development path. Africa's low level of development has been attributed in large part to the continent's slow pace in structurally transforming its predominantly primary, commodity-based economies. Shifting the development debate to jobs, productivity changes and structural transformation is predicated on

adequate human capital. The strategic repositioning of ECA to better respond to Africa's development priorities has strengthened the role of the social development subprogramme.

165. In 2014, the subprogramme focused on the transformational role that social development policy can play in support of the structural transformation of African economies. The subprogramme sought to leverage the interdivisional synergy achieved through collaboration with the ECA divisions for macroeconomic policy, statistics and capacity-building, along with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, and supported by the direct involvement of the subregional offices. This resulted in a more integrated and coherent approach to research work on social development policy in Africa. The relevance of the policy research currently conducted can be gauged by requests from established African think tanks and research bodies such as the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research and the University of Nairobi, all of which invited the Social Development Policy Division to present papers on social development and inclusive economies in 2014.

166. The subprogramme's activities for 2014 were in response to African member States' requests and recommendations as expressed through the statutory intergovernmental oversight committee. These included requests to assess human exclusion on the continent and to set out strategic priorities for population and development, including migration. The Committee acknowledged the introduction of urbanization as an area of critical importance and the Division has responded by creating a small section to pursue innovative research and policy dialogue on urbanization in Africa in the context of social development.

167. The creation of the African Social Development Index was a direct response to member States' desire to assess the impact of exclusion on social development in Africa. During the year under consideration, the index went through a validation process and was piloted in five member States. The index has already been implemented by national implementation teams in Cameroon, Morocco and Zambia, soon to be followed by Kenya and Senegal. Awareness-raising of the Index was done in collaboration with the subregional offices in Marrakech during the ninth African Development Forum, and in Lusaka and Yaoundé. As member States provide their own national data for the computation of

the index, national ownership of the tool is strengthened and peer-induced capacity-building is boosted.

168. The joint initiative of AUC, ECA and the World Food Programme (WFP) on the cost of hunger in Africa has continued to gain momentum. The eight African countries that are implementing country-specific studies have acknowledged the estimated national cost of not addressing child stunting and have proposed policies to redress the problem. This has resulted in seven additional African countries requesting assistance from AUC, WFP and ECA in initiating national studies on the cost of hunger. The studies have also led to the establishment of Africa's Renewed Initiative for Stunting Elimination (ARISE), with the support of ECA. The methodological basis of the studies could be applied across a wide range of poverty-related topics, such as youth unemployment or illiteracy, and provide evidence-based information on the cost to national policymakers.

169. The Social Development Policy Division also conducted a study of health insurance in Ghana and Rwanda, which appeared in the *African Social Development Report 2013–2014*. The study is intended to contribute to the critical issue of health financing in member States.

170. "Harnessing the demographic dividend" was the thematic focus of the Division's work on population and youth in 2014. In this context, the Division organized an expert meeting to review a background paper on population and development.

171. In 2014, the subprogramme participated in an interregional Development Account project with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The project is intended to promote youth policies and programmes that are inclusive and sustainable, through the engagement of young people. By developing a toolbox of policy and programme options, sharing knowledge and providing technical advice, the project will strengthen the capacity of Governments to implement and sustain effective youth policies, especially in the context of youth participation and decent jobs for young people.

(j) Programme support

172. During the period under review, ECA made steady progress in its efforts to improve results through higher

quality products and services, greater organizational effectiveness, and improved accountability. This section contains information on the measures taken to build a more transparent, accountable and results-based organization, with particular focus on strengthening strategic planning, evaluation and operational quality, improving business processes, knowledge management and communications, and enhancing partnerships and technical cooperation.

173. ECA took specific steps to enhance its focus on results, a process which started with the consolidation of strategic programming and planning, budgeting, evaluation and quality assurance in one office – the Strategic Planning and Operational Quality Division – as part of the framework for managing results supporting the strategic orientation introduced in March 2013.

174. The Strategic Planning and Accountability System is a framework to enable ECA to act as a single, cohesive entity in planning, budgeting, monitoring, quality assurance, and evaluation of, and reporting on, its strategic priorities, outputs and results. The major elements of the system comprise of strategic planning instruments, including the Strategic Framework, the proposed programme budget, the annual business plan, the evaluation and quality assurance functions, the executive performance management dashboard, and the annual reports. It aims to align resources and operational activities with the Commission's mission of becoming a think tank of reference on African development issues, and to allow for the identification and tracking of results that contribute to effectively influencing policies for structural transformation across the region.

(i) Proposed programme budget 2016–2017

175. The Strategic Planning and Operational Quality Division prepared the proposed programme budget for the period 2016–2017, which was informed by inputs from ECA divisions, subregional offices and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, following a number of strategic planning rounds and bilateral working meetings. It outlines the proposed outputs and the associated budget to achieve the Commission's strategic priorities, as defined in the approved Strategic Framework for the biennium 2016–2017. The overall objective of the proposed programme budget is to support the efforts of African countries to achieve sustained and inclusive growth in order to accelerate the continent's structural transformation, in line with the priorities of NEPAD, the common African position on the

post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063. It builds on the approved 2014–2015 Programme Budget, and reflects the situation and priorities for 2016–2017 in line with regional and global commitments to Africa's development.

(ii) Executive performance management dashboard

176. The executive performance management dashboard was developed to support results-based monitoring and evaluation through sustained, integrated and coherent management of performance. It combines critical strategic, operational and financial information to aid strategic decision-making, and reports on the efforts to bring together streams of ECA work in policy research and knowledge delivery. The executive performance management dashboard is organized into four clusters: policy influence; credibility or trust; accountability and learning; and operational effectiveness. The clusters are underpinned by 10 strategic results measured using key performance indicators. The sources of data include internal operations and systems, online media monitoring and analysis data, and the perception survey of the Commission's partners.

177. The 2014 survey of the Commission's partners had revealed a favourable perception by partners of the contribution made by the Commission in terms of its influence on policy in support of Africa's transformation agenda; the credibility and trust that it had demonstrated through the production of high quality, evidence-based and good-fit policy research and knowledge delivery services; its accountability mechanisms and learning culture; and its operational effectiveness in delivering its knowledge production and capacity development services on time.

178. The following selected survey results were highlighted:

- a. ECA knowledge outputs were perceived by 85 per cent of survey respondents as being of high quality and effective in promoting discussion on Africa's transformative agenda;
- b. More than 70 per cent of survey respondents indicated that ECA knowledge delivery was highly sensitive to context, relevant, and tailored;
- c. Close to 90 per cent of survey respondents felt that ECA generated reliable and relevant policy ideas;

- d. Close to 60 per cent of survey respondents said that ECA effectively leveraged synergies with the United Nations system;
- e. The review of qualitative inputs showed that 64 per cent of survey respondents had a positive opinion of ECA. It was perceived as a transformative and dynamic partner organization that provided policy leadership and high quality and cutting-edge expertise and knowledge, with a view to building capacities and accelerating Africa's development.

(iii) Annual Business Plan for 2015

179. During the period under review, ECA finalized its Business Plan for 2015. It provides a road map of the annual implementation of activities to achieve the outputs and outcomes as defined in the approved Programme Budget. The Plan facilitates the alignment of the outputs of the ECA divisions, subregional offices and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning with the corporate strategic objectives of policy influence, credibility, accountability and learning, and operational effectiveness – as articulated in the executive performance management dashboard.

(iv) Evaluation policy and plan

180. As part of the Commission's Strategic Planning and Accountability System, ECA adopted in December 2014 a new evaluation policy. It sets out the objectives, roles and functions of evaluation in ECA, defines the institutional framework in which the evaluation operates, and outlines the general processes by which it is made operational.

181. The policy governs the evaluation function of ECA and applies to all initiatives supported and funded by ECA – it aims to bring evaluation to the heart of ECA development programming. Through systematic evaluations of programmes, the Commission endeavours to capture the outcomes and impacts of its normative and operational activities, serving as an engine for organizational learning, and guiding strategic decisions for improved programming and overall accountability.

182. The policy will guide a whole array of evaluations across ECA, from mandatory external ones to internal and self-evaluations, with the aim of promoting and strengthening the culture of evaluation across the Commission. The paradigm shift of the strategic placement of evaluation will provide the necessary impetus for resource mobilization, as well as showcase ECA as

an outward-looking organization that consistently and critically evaluates its work programme in order to improve development results. A three-year evaluation plan (2015–2017) has also been put in place, which will be used as a guide for undertaking a number of major external and internal evaluations. Furthermore, the consistent follow-up to ECA audit recommendations during the reporting period had warranted the Commission to be scored as green by Headquarters (100 per cent implementation of oversight body recommendations), which showcased the ECA senior management team's commitment to accountability and organizational learning.

(v) Operational quality policy and plan 2014–2017

183. The operational quality policy and plan outlines the Commission's quality assurance policy for the period 2014–2017, and provides a framework to guide the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of quality assurance activities. There are six objectives: to support ECA in offering innovative thinking for Africa's structural transformation in line with agreed continental goals; to strengthen the capacity of ECA to deliver high-quality products and services that are relevant, credible, and effectively influence policy choices and decisions for African transformation; to enhance the use of the results of the quality assurance system to support accountability, programme learning and resource allocation; to ensure that risks threatening the quality and sustainability of ECA products and services are appropriately and continuously assessed, monitored and managed; to promote compliance with the mandates of the Economic and Social Council and United Nations-wide initiatives on gender mainstreaming; and to contribute, through the ECA quality assurance function, to building a competent organization.

(vi) Quality assurance manual

184. During the period under review, ECA also began developing its own quality assurance manual. The aim of the manual is to be the main source of reference on quality products and services; and to provide an overview of the main components of the quality system of ECA, including its management responsibility, resources, measurement and improvement. The manual should be finalized during 2015.

(k) Administration

185. During the period under review, ECA effected occupancy of the new office facilities, the construction of which was approved by the General Assembly by its resolution 56/270. The office facilities are occupied by the United Nations Office for Project Services, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Liaison Office with the African Union and ECA, the United Nations Office to the African Union, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Children's Fund. The occupancy for the new office facilities exceeds the original estimate of 610 staff members (see A/62/487).

186. ECA also adopted the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) during 2014, which resulted in the Commission moving from the current system accounting standards (UNSAS) to full accrual basis accounting. It has enabled ECA to capture and present detailed information on assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses, including real property, equipment and intangible assets, and their gradual depreciation or amortization. Such detailed requirements will facilitate improved stewardship of the Commission's assets, increase credibility of its financial statements, and provide more accurate recognition of liabilities resulting from past transactions and events. In addition, the ECA control framework has been made more efficient in all areas, allowing for enhanced management of resources and improved decision-making, while comprehensive information about revenue and expenses will ensure improved strategic planning and results-based management. Also, the financial statements prepared under the IPSAS requirements will allow for improved comparability over financial periods, and with the financial statements of other funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system that have adopted the Standards.

187. The preparations for the deployment of Umoja at ECA, scheduled for November 2015, have been one of the top priorities for the Commission during the period under review, with much attention paid to proper governance structure, project planning and readiness, training and testing exercises, data management, communications activities, maintaining a productive dialogue with the Umoja team based at Headquarters, and building effective partnerships. In that regard, Mr. Ernesto Baca, Assistant Secretary-General for the United Nations Enterprise Resource Planning Project, visited ECA in February 2015 to conduct a Umoja Academy

AI track session and to brief the senior management team on the tasks and challenges ahead.

188. Since March 2014, ECA has been mobilizing its focal points for Umoja with a full governance structure in place, with a Deployment Coordination Committee at the steering level and a deployment team, consisting of local process experts, working on data collection, cleansing, validation and other tasks in preparation for migration from the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) and other legacy systems. Considerable advances have been made on inventory and equipment data collection and mapping. To enhance communication about the project status, ECA developed a Umoja communications strategy, aligned with the corporate communications guidelines, and launched a public awareness campaign, including Umoja newsletters, posters, articles on iSeek and in the staff magazine, and a Umoja section on the ECA Intranet. All members of the senior management team have been well informed on Umoja, and an appropriate awareness-raising programme has been successfully mounted in all ECA organizational units and the subregional offices.

189. ECA has teamed up with the United Nations Office at Nairobi for collaboration on testing and training activities – five members of the ECA deployment team travelled to Nairobi in December 2014 and January 2015 to test Umoja scenarios in various areas. An internal training programme, through the Umoja Academy Local Process Experts training and certification programme, has been implemented. Furthermore, a comprehensive training plan is being developed that will include all staff members of ECA divisions, subregional offices and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

(l) Publications, information and communications technology, and knowledge management

190. ECA completed the redevelopment of its new website in February 2015. The aim is for the website to better reflect the organization's new emphasis on Africa's transformational agenda, maintain the Executive Secretary's blog, and to project the Commission's intentions of producing innovative and topical think-pieces on current issues of relevance to Africa's development.

191. The ECA Institutional Repository allows access to all ECA publications (available from <http://repository>).

uneca.org), with 20,000 publications in PDF archival format. The ECA usage statistics indicate that the repository is widely accessed, with an average of 300,000 hits per month and 25,000 documents downloaded per month. The Institutional Repository was featured in a publication of the International Telecommunication Union (available from http://www.itu.int/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/agenda/session_docs/253/The%20ECA%20Institutional%20Repository.pdf).

192. Each of the major publications launched and the events organized by ECA during the period under review had a clear strategic approach that was characterized by public relations campaigns, which included publishing advertorials or op-eds with key media across Africa, visible branding identity, and extensive media coverage of key events. Pitches to the media, social media uptake, press releases and videos were issued. The level of effort far exceeded estimates, with over 1,300 press releases in 2014 alone (against the target of 1,000 for the biennium), in both French and English, which significantly enhanced the visibility of ECA. The Commission gained over 10,000 Twitter followers, 4,800 followers on its Facebook account and its thematic pages, and over 57,000 views on YouTube. Those platforms have continued to help bring ECA to the attention of a wider audience, and support the message being projected of a new image for ECA.

193. ECA established partnerships with AllAfrica.Com and Financial Afrik and employed the use of Meltwater – a news and media analysis platform – to deepen its analysis on reach, mentions and accomplishments. According to the Meltwater report for the period from 1 November 2013 to 31 October 2014, ECA received mentions in 3,697 online news articles of which 1,371 articles came from Africa, and 2,326 were international. During October 2014, when the ninth African Development Forum and the fourth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa were held, the highest number of global online media mentions was registered, with a total of 458 hits. The increase in media mentions in that month was primarily due to the topics of agriculture and climate change in Africa.

194. In an effort to make its publications more accessible to the public at large, ECA has embarked on a more reader-friendly format, with more and top quality infographics. With the exception of the *African Governance Report* (outsourced to the Oxford Press University), all other flagship, special and headline thematic publications were processed using the in-house harmonized

pre-designed format. These included the 2014 edition of the *Economic Report on Africa*, the Commission's 2014 *Millennium Development Goals Report*, the report on domestic resource mobilization, the BRICS–Africa partnership report for development, the African science and technology innovation report, and the study on energy access and security in East Africa.

195. Since being awarded the International Standards Organization 14001:2004 certification in 2014, ECA continues to be mindful of the environmental impact of its operations. The use of 100 per cent recycled paper was reinforced in 2014 and all conference documents continue to be printed in black and white so as to reduce the use of chemicals. Furthermore, in 2014 the print shop invested in a digital offset press, which provides exceptional versatility, high productivity and the much needed print-on-demand capability. The quick turnaround times for print-on-demand services has dispensed with the expense of holding large volumes of publications stock. Using the digital offset press also supports the United Nations ongoing green initiative and contributes to reducing the carbon footprint of the Commission. In 2013, ECA purchased 20,000 reams of 100 per cent recycled A4 80 g paper (equivalent to 850 trees) for general office purposes. That stock of recycled paper lasted through 2014 and into the beginning of 2015.

196. The desk reviews of the current information and communications technology practices were carried out throughout the year by the Information Technology and Umoja Support Section unit heads to ensure compliance with, and adherence to, the Information Technology Infrastructure Library, the de facto set of practices for information technology service management that focuses on aligning information technology services with the needs of the business. Required changes were then introduced using the recommended change management processes and procedures. Similarly, information and communications technology projects and related documentation were formulated by project teams in line with the recommended project management methodology – Projects IN Controlled Environments (commonly known as PRINCE2).

197. Equally important, the ECA Information and Communications Technology Strategy, entitled “Taking ICT to a strategic level” was adopted. Finalized in April 2014, it provides a guide for the work and projects undertaken by ECA in that area. As a living document,

it is continuously reviewed to ensure it stays in line with the Commission's Business Plan and business needs.

(m) Financial resource mobilization and partnership management

198. Mobilizing sufficient and predictable extrabudgetary resources to support the Commission's normative and operational activities through technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives is vital for delivering results and maximizing the impact of the work of the Commission on Africa's socioeconomic development.

199. During 2014, the Commission received contributions as extrabudgetary resources from partners totalling \$23.04 million, compared to \$71.84 million of regular budget resources. The highest contributions came from the Joint Financing Arrangement partners – Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and Northern Ireland – who provided total programmatic support of \$7.52 million; the European Union, \$6.55 million; the Department for International Development (DFID), \$4.66 million; and the Australian Agency for International Development, \$1.87 million. The other significant contributions came from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, with \$1.05 million in support of mainstreaming and land governance in Intergovernmental Authority on Development

(IGAD) countries; and FAO, with \$0.82 million in support of the African Centre for Statistics. In addition to the above, ECA received funding support from other partners such as the Government of Ireland, the Republic of Korea, the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, and agencies of the United Nations system.

200. With its Partnership Strategy, ECA intends to forge more strategic and results-based collaborative alliances with its hallmark view of partnerships beyond mobilization of financial resource to include sharing of ideas and knowledge, developing synergies, building on comparative advantages and avoiding duplication of efforts. ECA has identified six types of partners with which it can advance the work of the Commission: pan-African institutions (African Union Commission, African Development Bank and the League of Arab States); member States and regional economic communities; United Nations regional commissions, and programmes and agencies of the United Nations system; development partners (multilateral and bilateral); non-State actors (research institutions, civil society, media, private sector, philanthropic organizations and private foundations); and South-South and triangular cooperation. During the reporting period, ECA entered into 41 new partnership agreements, bringing the total number of partnerships to 199. A third of the 199 partnerships were with non-State actors; 53 (26 per cent) were

Subprogramme	Regular budget	Extra-budgetary	Total
Macroeconomic policy	4.00	1.29	5.29
Regional integration and trade	3.26	6.37	9.63
Innovation, technology and management of Africa's natural resources	2.35	9.42	11.77
Statistics and statistical capacity development	4.44	2.45	6.89
Capacity development	1.46	0.00	1.46
Gender and women in development	0.39	0.61	1.00
Subregional activities for development	16.24	0.57	16.81
Social development	2.86	0.66	3.52
Development planning	1.30		1.30
Public information and knowledge management	15.18	0.24	15.42
Executive direction and management	6.16	1.43	7.59
Programme support	14.20		14.20
Total	71.84	23.04	94.88

with development partners; 52 (25 per cent) were with member States and regional economic communities; 20 (10 per cent) were with United Nations regional commissions and programmes and agencies of the United Nations system; and 12 (6 per cent) with pan-African institutions.

2. Technical cooperation: United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation and Development Account

201. The Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation is used to support African countries in their capacity development efforts. Those efforts are geared towards achieving inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in support of accelerating Africa's structural transformation, in line with the priorities and vision articulated in Agenda 2063, the NEPAD programme and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the post-2015 development agenda. In synergy with Development Account projects, the Regular Programme enables ECA to share its expertise and body of knowledge with member States, AUC, the NEPAD Agency, the regional economic communities and other intergovernmental organizations, in support of the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes geared towards the development of the continent. The Regular Programme is implemented under four themes, namely macroeconomic policy, regional integration and trade, development planning, and natural resources contracts negotiation, and contributes to the results under the regular programme of work of ECA.

202. In 2014, major achievements supported by Regular Programme funds included the provision of macroeconomic policy technical assistance to four member States to strengthen national development plans, and the success of the ninth African Development Forum. The Regular Programme also assisted with the design of industry, trade and infrastructure policy frameworks for four member States and two regional economic communities. The Regular Programme has been used in tandem with Development Account and extrabudgetary resources to support the African Peer Review Mechanism process in Africa. Notably, the Programme has supported an analytical report on the gender dimensions of the African Peer Review Mechanism, and has contributed at the subregional level to the development

and adoption of a business plan to combat the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Great Lakes area.

203. The Development Account is a capacity development programme of the United Nations Secretariat aimed at enhancing the capacities of developing countries in the priority areas of the Organization's development agenda. The Development Account is funded from the Secretariat's regular budget and implemented by 10 entities of the Secretariat (the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the five regional commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). Development Account projects at ECA serve to link the normative and analytical work of the Commission to its operational activities and to build strong synergies with the other United Nations entities, drawing on the strengths and comparative advantages of each.

204. The Development Account is a critical funding source in support of the ECA regular budget to help member States address their capacity development priorities. During the period under review, ECA has implemented 10 projects – benefiting over 30 member States – intended to develop national policies centred around the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic). In 2014, ECA also developed four new Development Account projects in the areas of statistics and data; development planning processes; strengthening African development planners' capacities for integrating the post-2015 development agenda into national development plans; and strengthening the monitoring of social protection in member States.

Chapter III

Issues from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, including the intergovernmental committees of experts of the subregional offices

205. The present chapter provides an overview of the major issues and outcomes of the meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, including the intergovernmental committees of experts of the subregional offices. It highlights the key issues and recommendations from the meetings which need to be brought to the attention of the Commission for action or information. The chapter also includes a preview of scheduled meetings that had not yet taken place at the time the annual report was finalized.

206. A review of the Commission's intergovernmental machinery, undertaken in 2013 as part of the institutional reforms, resulted in the elimination of overlapping bodies and a more streamlined structure aligned with the Commission's new programme orientation. Accordingly, the intergovernmental machinery now consists of organs focused on overall development issues at the subregional and regional levels and several expert-level subsidiary bodies, as set out in the following sections.

A. Organs dealing with overall development issues

1. Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and its Committee of Experts

207. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides the necessary legislative mandate and policy guidance to the Commission, considers and endorses its work programme, serves as a forum for articulating the position of Africa on development issues, and reviews the recommendations of the Commission's subsidiary bodies and the Executive Secretary. Since 2008, the annual session of the Conference has been organized jointly with

the annual meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, with a view to achieving greater coherence in articulating Africa's position on key development issues.

208. The Committee of Experts meets prior to the Conference and provides technical support to the Conference. The Bureau of the Committee includes a representative from each of the five subregions and consists of a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur elected on a subregional basis.

2. Intergovernmental committees of experts of the subregional offices

209. The five intergovernmental committees of experts of the subregional offices meet annually, prior to the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, to which they report through the Conference's own Committee of Experts. The intergovernmental committees oversee the overall formulation and implementation of the programme of work and priorities of their respective subregional offices and make recommendations on economic and social development, and the promotion and strengthening of subregional economic cooperation and integration. Whenever the need arises, meetings are held back-to-back with major ministerial conferences of the regional economic communities in order to provide a platform for subregional ministerial caucuses to discuss specific subregional development challenges. The outcomes of such meetings are brought to the attention of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

B. Functional and sectoral subsidiary organs of the Commission

210. There are four organs under the Commission which have essentially functional and sectoral responsibilities: the Committee on Gender and Social Development, the Committee on Sustainable Development, the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration, and the Committee on Statistics.

211. These committees meet in ordinary sessions once every two years and report to the Commission at its annual session through the Committee of Experts. The sessions of these bodies bring together policymakers and other stakeholders, including development experts, to inform and guide the work of the Commission in various sectors.

C. Meetings held during the period under review

1. First joint session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa

212. The first joint session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa was organized in Tunis from 10 to 12 December 2014, under the theme “Strengthening the production of agricultural statistics in Africa for better monitoring and evaluation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme”. The first meeting of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management Africa was held on the margins of the joint session, to further strengthen statistical and geospatial information production, management, dissemination and use.

213. A number of meetings were held as preparatory events for the joint session, on 8 and 9 December 2014. These included the sixth Forum on African Statistical Development, a media workshop on the effective use of statistics in reporting development, a meeting of the Steering Committee for the Regional Project on the

System of National Accounts, a meeting on the African Geodetic Reference Frame, and a meeting on the use of mobile devices for data collection.

214. Participants at the joint session took stock of the progress made in various areas of statistics, including Africa’s implementation plan for improving agricultural and rural statistics, the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, the International Comparison Programme, the implementation of the national strategies for the development of statistics, civil registration and vital statistics, the data revolution, the City Group on Governance, and the establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Training Centre.

215. During the first joint session, the participants:

- a. Called upon AUC, ECA, the African Development Bank and other relevant institutions such as WFP and FAO to strengthen their collaboration on improving agricultural statistics in member States, in order to supply quality data, inform the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and increase knowledge on agricultural transformation;
- b. Recommended that AUC and ECA should develop a regional programme on population and housing censuses for the following five years, that would include sustainable capacity development, technical support and South-South cooperation;
- c. Urged the leaders of African institutions, in particular AUC, ECA and the African Development Bank, through the African Statistical Coordination Committee, to work together and coordinate initiatives, for the common purpose of developing statistics in Africa;
- d. Called upon the United Nations agencies to work in partnership with AUC, ECA and the African Development Bank in the delivery of the various statistical programmes and activities, and to participate in the development of national statistics programmes and the in-country coordination of statistics projects;
- e. Declared the creation of the African Caucus of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Africa initiative, with ECA as its secretariat;
- f. Requested that the Statistical Commission for Africa bring these recommendations to the attention of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for adoption and endorsement.

2. Thirty-first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Central Africa

216. The thirty-first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Central Africa was held in March 2015 in Brazzaville, under the theme “Developing the forest industry for the structural transformation of the economies of Central Africa”. The session brought together over 60 experts, whose overarching recommendation was for member States to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Congo Basin’s vast expanse of forest for the subregion’s economic transformation.

217. Specifically, the experts called upon the member States to engage fully in value-addition components of the forest industry by engaging in so-called second and third-level transformation. Such a move, they noted, would be made possible through investment in technology and high-level training, the identification of new financing mechanisms, contribution to the Green Economy Fund of Central Africa, the creation of more attractive local markets for national investors, the harmonization of national policies in the sector and the implementation of the strategies already developed by the Economic Community of Central African States and the Central African Forest Commission on the transformation of timber and non-timber forest products.

218. They discussed the country profiles for Central Africa which, once again, underlined the vulnerability of the subregion to volatile global prices for raw materials. Structural transformation would assuage the problem. After examining the report on the country profiles, the experts asked ECA to broaden the scope of its data collection, make use of official statistics from member States, and refine information on the state of regional integration in the subregion.

219. In their review of other key development issues affecting the subregion, the experts noted with satisfaction that many of the projects of the transport master plan for Central Africa had been implemented, but regretted the current inertia, along with the thorny issue of a yet-to-be-developed air transport vision for the subregion.

220. The meeting was held on the heels of an ad hoc expert group meeting on the progress and prospects for macroeconomic convergence in Central Africa, during which member States and subregional institu-

tions were asked to step up their efforts to achieve the kind of regional integration that would foster sustainable growth in all the economies of the subregion. In the light of the disparate and weak performances recorded by the countries in the Economic Community of Central Africa States, the experts implored the member States concerned to take greater ownership of the various facets of multilateral monitoring and to forge the partnerships needed to extend the convergence criteria to the whole of the Economic Community of Central African States.

3. Nineteenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for East Africa

221. The nineteenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for East Africa was held from 2 to 5 March 2015, in Antananarivo, on the theme “Harnessing the blue economy for the development of East Africa”.

222. The meeting included a high-level panel discussion entitled “Blue economy: nuts and bolts”, and discussions of the activities in the subregion by the Subregional Office for East Africa, the status of implementation of the subregional coordination mechanism business plan, and an overview of the key macroeconomic developments in the subregion. The experts also reviewed the role of onshore and offshore mining. Three ad hoc expert group sessions were held on the margins of the meeting, on the following themes:

- a. Country profiles of Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda;
- b. Geopolitics and natural resource management in the Indian Ocean region;
- c. Maritime exclusive economic zones and deep-sea mineral and energy development in East Africa.

223. The experts concluded that 2015–2025, having been declared the Decade of African Seas and Oceans, represented an important opportunity to highlight Agenda 2063, together with the African Union’s 2050 Integrated Maritime Strategy, as the guiding documents for the decade.

224. Participants at the meeting recognized that the blue economy in East Africa had an important role to play in contributing to structural transformation, sustainable economic growth and lasting social develop-

ment. They emphasized that the blue economy covers all water bodies, including lakes and rivers, in addition to seas and the coast. The largest sectors of the blue economy are fishing, aquaculture, tourism, transport, ports, energy and mining. They also observed, however, that the blue economy plays an important role in assisting other sectors of the economy, besides addressing important social considerations, such as food security, poverty alleviation and job creation. They stressed the importance of developing linkages between the blue economy and other sectors, and also of maximizing the retention of wealth creation within the subregion. In addition, tools and instruments should be provided for measuring the respective national engagement with the blue economy, including national policy and strategy-related data in respect of the concerned sector.

225. Participants noted the importance of the African Union's 2050 Integrated Maritime Strategy, including the Maritime Transport Charter. In order to accelerate implementation of the strategy and increase the level of understanding of other relevant international frameworks, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, they agreed to develop a blue economy handbook for East Africa. The handbook would contain a step-by-step guide on how to mainstream the blue economy into national policies, laws, regulations and practices.

226. In developing the blue economy, the participants recognized the overarching importance of the need to balance economic interests with environmental and social considerations, as encapsulated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want". In that respect, they stressed the importance of taking an inclusive approach to the development of the blue economy; an approach that empowers local communities and stakeholders to reap the full benefits of investing in the domain. They agreed that the protection, conservation, preservation and sustainable use of aquatic biodiversity was essential, and that climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies needed to be included in order to ensure the sustainable exploitation of the blue economy.

227. The experts agreed that the international community, including the United Nations, had a role to play in assisting member States to realize the full potential of their blue economies in a sustainable, inclusive manner. At the same time, it was observed that the successful implementation of any blue economy strategy required a capable developmental State, political commitment

and leadership. It also required gender-sensitive policies and broad-based participation in decision-making and policymaking, including the private sector, civil society, young people and other stakeholders. Transparency, clear communication and the active involvement of the media were also deemed to be essential.

228. The meeting urged member States, where applicable, to mainstream the blue economy into their national and subregional development plans. Member States were also encouraged to establish the necessary institutions and build the relevant capacities to better harness the potential of the sector. Of particular relevance was the need to build research and development capacities and centres of excellence in areas such as oceanographic mapping, fisheries management, integrated development planning, port competitiveness and tourism.

229. In relation to the country profiles being developed by ECA, it was agreed that the production process must be inclusive and collaborative. ECA officials would continue to prioritize the use of data from national statistics agencies. A consistent process and template would also be employed. Member States would assist ECA officials in accomplishing that task through the provision of timely data and information, while also providing comments on draft versions whenever possible. In addition, and where necessary, focal points would be established to facilitate communication between the Subregional Office and member States.

4. Thirtieth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for North Africa

230. The thirtieth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for North Africa took place from 3 to 6 March 2015, in Rabat. The objective of the meeting was to analyse the status and trends of major macro-economic and social aggregates in North Africa through the review of the survey of economic and social conditions in North Africa and the country profiles prepared by the Subregional Office in 2014. The meeting also offered the opportunity to review the Office's activity report, short-term and medium-term work programme and the status report on the implementation of regional and international development agendas.

231. In addition, the meeting provided a framework for high-level national and international experts to discuss

and formulate recommendations on key issues related to national and regional development agendas.

232. In addition, within the context of the studies being conducted by ECA since 2012 on industrialization in Africa, the meeting discussed how to leverage trade as an instrument to speed up industrialization, which was also the theme of the 2015 edition of the *Economic Report on Africa*.

233. The Office shared and discussed with the Committee the outcomes of two expert meetings, the first of which was about international transport and trade facilitation, and was held on 25 and 26 September 2014 in Rabat. The main purpose of the meeting was to give deeper consideration to efforts to speed up regional integration and facilitate intra-African trade through a substantial reduction of the direct and indirect costs of doing business.

234. The second meeting, held on 19 and 20 November 2014, also in Rabat, focused on fostering regional integration through the promotion of regional value chains. The general idea was that regional value chains would not only speed up the diversification and sophistication of North African economies, but also contribute to more effective integration into global value chains.

235. The participants also discussed how to plan and mobilize resources for the implementation of Agenda 2063, with a specific focus on North Africa. Given the magnitude of the resources to be mobilized in order to implement Agenda 2063, the participants noted the need to explore innovative financing options, capitalize on traditional and non-traditional financial sectors, mobilize sovereign and pension funds to finance development projects, make special government loans to private investors, issue diaspora bonds, use extractive industry revenue to support development, and stem illicit financial flows.

236. An ad hoc expert meeting, held in parallel with the meeting of the Committee of Experts, on a strategy for an inclusive green economy, helped to analyse the challenges of industrialization as a vector for the structural transformation of the North African economies. It offered an opportunity to take stock of the national visions and strategies and share best practices on how to increase awareness about the challenges and advantages of a green economy.

237. After lengthy and detailed discussions, the Committee amended the different reports presented during the meeting. Given that 2015 was a pivotal year for the world, with the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the Committee recommended that ECA should continue to assist member States to coordinate their efforts by way of strengthening their common position in the adoption and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. Regarding the country profiles, the Committee recommended that ECA should institute, together with member States, a sustainable arrangement for data collection so that high quality country profiles could be generated from harmonized data. The Committee encouraged ECA to deepen its work within different research areas including the green economy, regional integration and regional value chains, through sectoral, national and regional analyses.

5. Twenty-first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa

238. The twenty-first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa took place on 12 and 13 March 2015 at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, on the theme, “Accelerating industrialization in Southern Africa through value addition and beneficiation”. The theme is consistent with the current priority of the Southern African Development Community to develop a road map and strategy on industrialization. The meeting brought together high-level public officials from countries across the subregion and partner institutions such as the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Southern African Customs Union, NEPAD, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the International Labour Organization and UNDP. Representatives from the academic sector, civil society, the media and ECA were also present.

239. The Committee considered, among other things, the programme performance report of the Office for 2014, parliamentary documents on social and economic conditions in Southern Africa, the post-2015 development agenda, the regional indicative strategic development plan of the Southern African Development Community, and the medium-term strategic plan of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. The experts also approved the Office’s planned activities for 2015 and adopted the outcome statement from the ad hoc expert group meeting that preceded the meeting

of the Committee of Experts, on agro-industry development for food and nutritional security in Southern Africa.

240. As part of the twenty-first meeting, an expert round table was held on value addition, value chains and beneficiation, which elicited discussions from the private sector, universities and civil society on the subject matter. The Committee also considered reports from ECA divisions and the partner institutions mentioned above.

241. The Committee reviewed and discussed the background paper prepared for the meeting by the Subregional Office and made far-reaching recommendations aimed at accelerating industrialization in the subregion. The recommendations concerned policy alignment and implementation, value addition and beneficiation, resource mobilization, infrastructure, innovation, research and development, and effective collaboration at the regional level. In its recommendations the Committee highlighted the central role of the State in facilitating industrial development through strengthening the domestic private sector, creating an enabling environment and incentives for investment including foreign direct investment, adopting a skills development strategy, investment in infrastructure including through public-private partnerships, investing in research and development in order to promote value addition and beneficiation for the subregion's primary products and mineral resources, and addressing the problem of inequality that is hampering the process of inclusive growth and sustainable economic development in Southern Africa.

6. Eighteenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for West Africa

242. The eighteenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for West Africa was held on 18 and 19 March 2015 in Dakar. The theme of the meeting was "Integration infrastructures and their impact on the subregional free trade zone in West Africa". The session brought together high level delegates from the subregional member countries, the private sector, universities, international development organizations and civil society.

243. Participants at the meeting emphasized the urgent need for the subregion to promote the development of

infrastructure in the key sectors of transport, energy, new information and communication technologies and the development of banking, in order to accelerate regional integration, strengthen economic growth, improve social development and effectively reduce poverty in accordance with the ECOWAS 2020 Vision. The meeting was also aimed at preparing the subregion to consolidate its competitiveness in the framework of the future African continental free-trade area, scheduled for 2017.

244. The choice of the theme of the session was prompted by the arguments developed in the 2014 Economic Report on Africa. That report, prepared by ECA in collaboration with AUC, was entitled, "Dynamic industrial policy in Africa: innovative institutions, effective processes and flexible mechanisms" and, among other things, it criticized the dangers of high economic growth that is not accompanied by industrial development and structural transformation and advocated setting in place the modern infrastructure and logistics required for industrialization.

245. Participants noted that the development of infrastructure would make it possible to strengthen competitiveness, industrialization and economic diversification and, at the same time, would facilitate economic integration. Efficient transport infrastructure would also improve the delivery of and access to basic social services, such as health and education, and make it possible for citizens to participate more actively in the subregional labour market. Trade among the ECOWAS member countries remains low, as across Africa in general, but it could be facilitated and improved by the availability of good quality infrastructure.

246. With a view to sharing best practices in public-private infrastructure partnerships, Senegal presented its experience in identifying, building and financing integration infrastructure projects. The presentation by Senegal comprised a review of the legal framework for public-private partnerships, taking three projects as examples. The first was on axle-load concession and control; the second on the new Blaise Diagne de Diass airport near Dakar; and the third on the Dakar-Diamniadio highway.

247. A report on the socioeconomic profile of West Africa in 2014 and the outlook for 2015 was also discussed during the meeting, as was a progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for 2014 of the ECA Subregional Office for West Africa and its

forthcoming programme of work for 2015. Participants also considered the progress made in the implementation of regional and international agendas, in particular, progress towards attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the outlook for the post-2015 development agenda in West Africa. Another issue discussed was the mobilization of domestic resources for infrastructure development.

248. An ad hoc expert group meeting was held just prior to the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, on 16 and 17 March 2015, on the regional infrastructure in West Africa: its status, challenges and impact on the free trade area. The outcomes of the ad hoc meetings were shared with the participants at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts.

Chapter IV

Eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Introduction

249. The eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development were held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 March 2015, under the theme: “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development”.

250. Agenda 2063 was adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa in January 2015. The Agenda represents a new vision for Africa, setting out priority areas for the continent’s development over the next 50 years. It takes into account such national, regional and continental frameworks as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Minimum Integration Programme, along with Africa’s own development experience, as guided by the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, the Lagos Plan of Action for the implementation of the Strategy and the Abuja Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community.

251. The aim of the Joint Annual Meetings was to exchange views on ways of deepening public awareness and knowledge of Agenda 2063 and of mobilizing and strengthening commitment in support of Agenda 2063; to identify practical ways in which the first 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063 could be funded; to outline the roles of different actors in the implemen-

tation of Agenda 2063, including the financing of the first 10-year plan and domestication of the Agenda in national and regional plans and frameworks; and to identify and consider how to strengthen appropriate partnerships for the financing and implementation of Agenda 2063 and the first 10-year plan. The discussions and the resulting recommendations were articulated around key issues related to Agenda 2063 in general and its first 10-year implementation plan in particular, including implementation arrangements and capacities; integration in national and regional development plans; monitoring and evaluation; financing strategies; stakeholder participation; partnerships; and communication and outreach.

252. The Meetings were structured into four plenary sessions: the first on implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development; the second on the domestication of Agenda 2063: regional and national dimensions of the first 10-year plan; the third on financing Agenda 2063: strategies for domestic resource mobilization and partnerships; and the fourth on financing for development: Africa’s perspective.

253. The present report comprises eight sections, corresponding to the items of the agenda. The opening of the Meetings, including the attendance and a summary of the opening statements, is covered in section I; section II presents the outcome of the election of the bureau and the adoption of agenda and programme of work for the Meetings; and the proceedings themselves are set out in sections III–VIII.

254. The Ministerial Statement and resolutions approved at the Meetings are appended to the present report in annexes I and II, respectively. The report of the

meeting of the Committee of Experts is appended to the report as annex III.

Opening of the Meetings [agenda item 1]

A. Attendance

255. The eighth Joint Annual Meetings were attended by representatives of the following member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 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, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

256. The following regional economic communities were represented: Central African Economic and Monetary Community, Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of West African States, East African Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Southern African Development Community.

257. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations Environment Programme, United

Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Office to the African Union, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations Population Fund, World Bank, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, World Meteorological Organization.

258. The following Member States of the United Nations were represented: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

259. Also present were the African Development Bank, the Central Bank of West African States, the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank, the New Partnership for Africa's Development Business Foundation, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

260. Observers were present from the following organizations: Action Aid, Action Aid International, Action Jeunesse pour le Développement, African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development, African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, African Forum and Network on Debt and Development, African Leadership Forum, African Monitor, Association of African Universities, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, British Broadcasting Corporation, Capacity and Development Services, Center for Democratic Development, Indian Ocean Commission, Community Emergency Response Initiative, Development Initiatives-Africa Hub, Development Research and Training, European Union, Fikir Leselam Development Organization, Freann Financial Services Limited, Geological Society of Africa, GK Kanki Foundation, Global Education, African Capacity-Building Foundation, Global Fund, Information Network Security Agency, Institute for Conscious Global Change, Institute of Development Studies, Integrated Seed Sector Development, International Organization for Migration, International Trade Union Confederation, League of Arab States, MED Confederation, Mzalendo Trust, Nurses Across the Borders Africa and Asia, Ohaha Family Foundation, Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa, International Organization of la Francophonie, Overseas Development Institute, Oxfam International, RMA Capital, One Campaign, Plan International, Save the Children, Statistics South Africa, National Bureau of Statistics, Third World Network, Transparency International

Cameroon, Uganda Women Network, African Monitor, United States Agency for International Development, University of Cape Town, University of Münster, University of Oxford, University of Waterloo, West African Economic and Monetary Union, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, World Vision International, World Wide Fund for Nature, World Wide Web Foundation.

B. Opening statements

261. The eighth Joint Annual Meetings were opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 30 March 2015, by Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, who delivered the keynote address on the theme of the Meetings. Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Moctar Ould Diay, First Vice-Chair of the outgoing Bureau of the Conference of Ministers and Minister of Finance of Mauritania, Mr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Ms. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and Mr. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda. The opening session was moderated by Ms. Zeinab Badawi, a BBC journalist.

262. Mr. Ould Diay said that the key determinants of the successful implementation of Agenda 2063 were the readiness of member States to integrate the Agenda into national development plans, the availability of financial resources, and the human and institutional capacity of member States. Ensuring synergy and alignment between continental and national plans was crucial. Africa would not prosper unless the needs and aspirations of its peoples were taken into account in its development plans. Agenda 2063 – an aspirational document prepared through a bottom-up, participatory process – would enable member States to meet the desires of Africans. He ended by stressing the importance and timeliness of the debate on the theme of the Meetings.

263. Mr. Lopes warmly thanked Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, the Government and the people of Ethiopia for their customary hospitality, and noted with appreciation the socioeconomic transformation of Ethiopia and the energy with which national reforms were being undertaken. He underlined the strategic partnership between the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, and commended the significant contribution made by the President of the Bank over the previous 10 years. He also commended the Chairperson

of the African Union Commission on her leadership of the Agenda 2063 process.

264. He reaffirmed that the Economic Commission for Africa remained focused on serving its member States' policy priorities and capacity development needs through interventions aimed at influencing policy, with a view to supporting Africa's transformation. Despite relatively high growth in Africa over the previous 15 years – driven by a commodity super-cycle and strong internal demand – without diversified economies the continent would remain prone to exogenous shocks and would stay trapped in the paradox of strong growth coexisting with high unemployment and extreme poverty. The Commission, in its efforts to bring coherence to policy priorities at the national, regional and continental levels, had continued to call for accelerated industrialization, which it saw as key to the structural transformation of African economies.

265. Highlighting the key factors constraining trade and industrialization in Africa, he pointed to Africa's narrow production and export base, which was dominated by low-value products such as raw materials and primary commodities. That was compounded by very high trade costs, tariffs and non-tariff barriers, which were hampering intra-African trade and the continent's access to international markets. Africa had no alternative but to increase its share of global exports. In that regard, African trade policies had played a major role in hampering the continent's ability to excel. As the 2015 edition of the *Economic Report for Africa* had explained, the delink between trade and industrial policies in Africa had led to high levels of protectionism with no tangible benefits in terms of improved productivity. The situation was being exacerbated by rent-seeking behaviour, which precluded the harnessing of dynamic comparative advantages. Tariff structures, which often did not reflect industrial policy considerations, were instruments that brought inconsistency between trade and industrial policy frameworks. Member States should adopt the approach referred to as "smart protectionism", which would make the rules work for Africa.

266. Pursuing trade reforms in a strategic manner was a means of promoting and strengthening a country's competitiveness and creating favourable conditions for enhanced participation in value chains. A dynamic services sector could exert wide-ranging spillover effects that could boost productivity and enhance value along the chain. It was vital that negotiations for a continental

free trade area also encompassed intra-African trade in services.

267. Trade could support industrialization, but harnessing that opportunity required a coherent policy framework. African countries needed to ensure that the sequencing of trade liberalization was consistent with their transformative agenda and commitment to regional integration by prioritizing the reduction of tariffs and the removal of non-tariff barriers within Africa. He appealed to all participants to realize that the continent could no longer afford to negotiate trade agreements as if industrialization did not matter to Africa.

268. African countries needed to explore the linkages between political decisions and their coherence with trade and industrial policies and development strategies. Political decisions were all about taking risks. Taking risks could be viewed as an intentional and managed interaction with uncertainty, unpredictability, and immeasurability which offered the potential to gain or lose something of value. It was vital that Africa overcome the perception of the continent as a place of risk – which was a purely subjective judgement that might or might not be valid – and that it learn to take its own risks.

269. Ms. Dlamini-Zuma noted that the Meetings were taking place at a critical time for African development. Integrated approaches, paradigm shifts and coordination were vital. The adoption of Agenda 2063 at the twenty-fourth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, in January 2015, had been preceded by more than two years of extensive consultations with a diverse cross-section of African constituents. Agenda 2063 was intended to ensure that Africa became an integrated, people-centred, peaceful and prosperous continent, and played a dynamic role on the global stage. In order to achieve Agenda 2063, the continent needed to invest in its human capital, through adequate spending on education, health, nutrition, water and sanitation. There was also a need for a skills revolution in order to achieve shared prosperity.

270. Calling for a paradigm shift to operationalize Agenda 2063, she highlighted the critical role of the agricultural sector in meeting the Agenda's goals. Noting that 2015 was the year of women's empowerment and that women made up the majority of the agricultural workforce, she said that the African Union would be leading a campaign to consign the hand-held hoe to museums, while making improved equipment,

technology, finance and extension services accessible to women and young people in order to integrate them into national, regional and global agribusiness value chains. Together with ensuring women's representation in decision-making at all levels and in all spheres of life, that would bring about the people-centred industrialization and structural transformation espoused in Agenda 2063.

271. Infrastructure development was critical for the improvement of trade. Under the first 10-year plan of Agenda 2063, infrastructure development would be accelerated with a view to ensuring the free movement of people and goods by air, road and rail. That was achievable, as demonstrated by the example of the Economic Community of West African States, where people could move freely within the community without visa requirements. The East African Community was following the same path and in both cases many benefits had been reaped. Lastly, it was vital to ensure that Agenda 2063 was characterized by the implementation of practical initiatives.

272. Mr. Kagame said that the Meetings offered a good starting point if wisely used. While it was more or less common knowledge that Africa needed to be integrated, prosperous, stable and more integrated, there was still some value in reviewing plans so that the continent could understand why it was not where it ought to be.

273. He put forward three thoughts on how Africa could start to build new momentum. First, the region needed to move away from thinking of development as something to do with money from outside the continent and start focusing on and making better use of what it already possessed and could mobilize domestically. Second, Africa must start deciding for itself what it wanted to do with its resources, as opposed to doing what external donors wanted. In other words, external support should not dictate the continent's choices for the continent. Such an approach would make the continent more dynamic, help it to achieve its goals and ensure that it no longer had to contend with unfulfilled pledges for funding and other assistance. Third, the continent would achieve the goal of a united Africa faster if it collaborated more closely in efforts towards sub-regional collaboration. In that regard, there were quick wins to be made by simply applying political will. For instance, the Northern Corridor infrastructure projects had already led to the free movement of East Africans, a significant reduction in non-tariff barriers and large drop in mobile phone roaming costs within the subre-

gion. In addition, the private sector needed to play a prominent role if the continent was to create the prosperous economies that it sought through Agenda 2063. Governments and the private sector needed to work together, not only in financing but also in planning and implementation, right from the outset.

274. To achieve the ideals of Agenda 2063, Africa needed to act with urgency and to take real ownership of the Agenda. It must not continue thinking that others would do the work for it and wait in vain for that to happen, while the world waited for Africa itself to act.

275. Mr. Dessalegn said that the theme of the current Joint Annual Meetings – “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development” – was of particular significance. The Meetings offered an important forum for discussing and laying the groundwork for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and agreeing on Africa’s common position prior to the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which was taking place in Addis Ababa in July 2015. The outcome of the Meetings would also feed into the continent’s input to the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. Agenda 2063 was the logical continuation of recent developments in Africa, and represented a collective effort and opportunity for the region to regain the power to determine its own destiny. Agenda 2063 would be a source of inspiration for the development of national and regional sustainable development plans.

276. Financing a transformative development agenda would require substantial resources. It was therefore imperative that available resources were used more effectively and strategically, which might also help to catalyse additional financing from the public and private sectors. In that connection, he noted Africa’s untapped domestic resources and underscored the crucial role of those resources in sustaining the continent’s remarkable economic growth. He called upon the ministers and other delegates attending the Meetings to make domestic resource mobilization the top priority in their discussions. The potential for domestic resource mobilization was enormous; examples of such mobilization could include improved tax administration, widening of the tax base and mobilization of private savings.

277. That said, however, for some countries official development assistance was still the largest source of external financing and was critical to the achievement of development goals. In that regard, Africa must press its

partners to meet their commitments, focus its resources on those most in need, increase spending on infrastructure, agriculture and agro-processing, and strengthen support for sustainable industrialization and domestic resource mobilization. In addition, the continent should press for a trade package focused on least developed countries at the tenth ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which would be taking place in December 2015, and a stronger voice for African countries on the boards of international financial institutions.

278. Mobilization of resources from both the domestic and the international private sectors was also key to achieving a transformative Agenda 2063. A vibrant domestic private sector would boost tax collection, while the international private sector could play an important role in technology transfer, skills enhancement and delivering infrastructure in partnership with public entities. He drew attention to the need for investment in monitoring mechanisms for financial flows in order to ensure the efficient use of funds and mutual accountability. Early and continuous monitoring would ensure that achievements, obstacles and future tasks could be identified and that implementation would be both effective and timely.

279. He concluded by reiterating the Ethiopian Government’s readiness to support Agenda 2063. He then declared the Meetings officially open and wished the ministers fruitful deliberations.

Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work [agenda item 2]

280. The following countries were unanimously elected by the Joint Annual Meetings to form the new Bureau:

Chair: United Republic of Tanzania

First Vice-Chair: Egypt

Second Vice-Chair: Gabon

Third Vice-Chair: South Africa

Rapporteur: Guinea

281. Mr. Harrison Mwakyembe, Chair of the newly elected Bureau and Minister for East African Coopera-

tion of the United Republic of Tanzania, thanked the participants for electing his country to chair the Meetings.

282. He noted that, despite the robust growth rates recorded in the region over the past two decades, Africa should remain cautious because that growth was not sufficiently inclusive and did not reach marginalized groups such as young people and women. Agenda 2063 had been carefully crafted by African Governments as a blueprint for sustainable development for the following five decades to provide current and future generations with prosperity for all. It had put the African people first by focusing on the development of strategic sectors. Implementing Agenda 2063 required a change in mindset. He called for African Governments, the peoples of Africa and those of African descent to come together to own and implement the Agenda.

283. In addition to better development planning and a change in mindset, there was also a pressing need to transform Africa's agriculture from a low-productivity base to a sector that was aligned with industrialization. That required reliable and affordable infrastructure services, which remained a considerable challenge.

284. Other fundamental requisites for inclusive and sustainable development were industrialization with value addition, skilled human capital, integration into the global economy, and transparent and accountable institutions. Promoting intra-African trade by fast-tracking regional integration efforts, such as the continental free trade area, was also important. For that to happen Africa needed improved governance and political stability.

285. While recognizing the need for Africa to accelerate its efforts to mobilize domestic resources, he maintained that, if the continent's financing needs were to be fully met, it was crucial that Africa nurtured current strategic partnerships and forged new alliances.

286. He concluded by emphasizing that Africa was at a crossroads and that the choices which it made would determine the destiny of future generations. He called upon member States to commit themselves to implementing Agenda 2063 by providing adequate development finance.

287. The Meetings adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the Meetings

2. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work
3. High-level ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the Meetings, "Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development"
4. High-level panel sessions
5. Consideration of the report and major recommendations of the meeting of the Committee of Experts
6. Consideration and adoption of the draft ministerial statement and the draft resolutions
7. Other matters
8. Closing of the Meetings

High-level ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the Meetings, "Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development" [agenda item 3]

Dialogue

288. The panellists for the high-level ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the Meetings included Mr. Sufian Ahmed, Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia; Mr. Ashraf al-Araby, Minister of Planning and Administrative Reform of Egypt; Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa; Ms. Bineta Diop, President, Femmes Africa Solidarité; and Ms. Antoinette Sayeh, Director of the Africa Department of the International Monetary Fund.

289. Ms. Badawi, the moderator, prompted the panellists to share their views and experiences on a wide range of issues related to the implementation of Agenda 2063, with a particular emphasis on planning, mobilizing and financing the continental development strategy. The questions posed by the moderator and the participants, and the responses from the panellists, revolved around awareness of Agenda 2063 at the national level, the alignment of the Agenda with national development plans, the capacity of African countries and institutions to implement the Agenda, and the role of the private sector, women and young people and the United Nations in the implementation process. There was also some discussion about infrastructure development and the blue economy.

Awareness-raising

290. In the course of the dialogue, there was wide agreement among panellists and participants on the critical need to promote awareness of Agenda 2063 – and also other vision documents – among all national stakeholders, if they were to be successfully implemented. It was acknowledged that, in the context of pressing developmental needs, it was difficult to gain the confidence of the public in long-term developmental priorities and goals and that participatory processes could help overcome resistance to such vision documents and their commitments. The importance of careful outreach strategies was emphasized, highlighting measures such as the incorporation of Agenda 2063 into school curricula, the preparation of materials in local languages, and effective media engagement, including the use of social media. It was suggested that it would be easier to secure public support for the shorter-term implementation plans.

Alignment of vision documents

291. The importance of aligning global, regional and national development strategies was acknowledged. Several African countries had in place vision documents which shared goals and targets with Agenda 2063, the global post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals currently being developed. It was also noted that Agenda 2063 was being used as a guiding document in several countries for the elaboration of new development strategies. The importance of ensuring coherence in the implementation of the different vision documents was highlighted, especially in the context of regional economic communities and cooperation with development partners.

Engagement of women and youth

292. Participants emphasized the importance of engaging and mobilizing women and young people for the successful implementation of Agenda 2063. The role of women and young people as partners and economic actors needed to be recognized, and their involvement should be both supported and scaled up through better access to finance, improved property rights (particularly in land), and capacity development in the area of business skills. It was noted that, while women were already heavily engaged in agriculture, the transformation of their role should go beyond agriculture and include the blue economy. Attention was also drawn to the role that Governments could play in encouraging private sector investment in women.

Capacity development

293. Emphasis was placed on the importance of capacity development for the implementation of Agenda 2063. The production and use of statistics for decision-making, and also for the monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives, was identified as an area where the capacity of African countries and institutions had to be strengthened.

Internal finance

294. Participants underscored the need for Africa to rely on domestic resources to finance its development and stressed that external financing should only be complementary to resources mobilized internally. Domestic savings were insufficient to finance Agenda 2063, which made it critical to supplement those savings with external funding sources, including funding raised through South-South cooperation. In that context, the private sector could contribute substantially to the implementation of Agenda 2063, particularly through public-private partnerships. Capital markets constituted another source of financing that could be explored.

Illicit financial flows

295. It was noted that a significant share of Africa's resources, including national reserves and revenues generated from natural resources, were kept outside the continent. That practice was attributed to the unsatisfactory performance of the continent's banking system. It was further noted that illicit financial flows from Africa compounded the challenge of financing the continent's development. In the light of the challenges outlined, there was an urgent need for African countries to improve their banking systems, to strengthen their tax administration, to improve their budget management practices and to adopt innovative resource mobilization strategies. Moreover, resources mobilized had to be used efficiently and, in that regard, measures had to be introduced to minimize leakages. Participants roundly deplored the paradoxical situation obtaining in Africa, whereby huge sums of money were leaving the continent, while it continued to face significant financing gaps, notably in the infrastructure sector.

Infrastructure development

296. There was wide agreement that infrastructure, in particular clean and sustainable energy infrastructure, constituted a core element of Agenda 2063. The avail-

ability of adequate infrastructure was critical to attainment of the objectives of Agenda 2063, and also those of the national development plans of African countries. That applied in particular to sectors such as agriculture and rural development, where road construction and electrification were urgently needed to support the transformation process. The important role of the private sector in the development of Africa's infrastructure was acknowledged. It was noted, however, that the private sector's involvement in that regard had been insignificant and its performance weak. Governments must therefore formulate appropriate policies to encourage the private sector to be involved and to enable it to thrive in the infrastructure and energy sectors.

297. The meeting noted that so-called "soft" infrastructure – namely, policy arrangements such as the regulation of infrastructure services and the removal of non-physical barriers to transport – was as important as "hard" infrastructure (physical assets) to economic development. Policy reforms in the infrastructure sector had reduced transport costs and delays along the Northern Corridor, which linked the port of Mombasa in Kenya with the landlocked countries of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda and the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Public-private partnerships

298. Public-private partnerships constituted a practical modality for involving the private sector in the implementation of Agenda 2063 in general and in the continent's infrastructure development in particular. For that to materialize, countries had to develop and implement appropriate legal frameworks for such partnerships with a view to building trust in the private sector. They also had to build their national capacity to negotiate public-private partnerships, and to harmonize their partnership frameworks to facilitate the implementation of regional projects. Experience had shown that the introduction of appropriate policies could significantly increase private investment in infrastructure development. For instance, the public sector used to dominate investment in telecommunications in Kenya but improvements in the regulatory environment had significantly boosted private sector investment.

Public sector involvement

299. Despite the huge scope for private sector involvement, the public sector would continue to play an important role in Africa's infrastructure development,

particularly in view of the massive infrastructure financing gap across the continent. It was therefore important for Governments to understand the limits of private sector involvement in Africa's infrastructure development. It was equally important that infrastructure development should be viewed from a regional standpoint, given that physical connectivity was a critical dimension of regional integration. In that regard, participants expressed their approval of the Dakar Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, held in June 2014, that had provided a platform for project sponsors to engage with investors on the implementation of 16 regional projects.

Blue economy

300. Attention was drawn to the importance of the blue economy, characterized by the development of ocean resources, particularly for small island States. It was noted, however, that the economic engagement of African countries with the oceans was limited, by and large, to extractive activities. That limitation underscored the need for African countries to diversify their activities, so as to generate wealth from the ocean. They must implement policies that would facilitate the involvement of women and young people in ocean-related economic activities. The blue economy was particularly vulnerable to climate change and that also had to be taken into consideration in policy formulation.

Role of the United Nations

301. Participants in the dialogue reviewed the important role of the United Nations in the implementation of Africa's development programmes. They highlighted the similarities between the targets and goals of the 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063 that were being articulated and the United Nations sustainable development goals. For its part, the United Nations was promoting flagship projects, such as the initiative under Agenda 2063 to construct a high-speed railway across Africa. It also supported the effective monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives. In that regard, it was involved in the process of establishing a mutual accountability framework designed to examine the extent to which Africa and its development partners had delivered on their commitments to the continent's development.

302. The 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union, which formed part of a joint African Union-United Nations declaration signed in 2006, provided a framework for the provision of United Nations

system support to Africa's development initiatives. A successor programme to the 10-year programme was being developed through the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme. It was up to the African Union to indicate how the United Nations could assist in the implementation of Agenda 2063. It was noted that the United Nations had reacted to the emergence of NEPAD by adopting General Assembly resolutions in support of the programme.

Recommendations

303. The following recommendations emerged from the dialogue:

- a. The African Union Commission should develop an outreach strategy for Agenda 2063. As part of the outreach strategy, member States should incorporate Agenda 2063 into school curricula and local languages should be used to raise awareness of Agenda 2063, including through the social media;
- b. Member States should align their national development plans with Agenda 2063 and ensure coherence in the implementation of national and regional plans;
- c. Member States should implement policies that support the involvement of women and young people in economic activities;
- d. Member States should develop and implement policies that attract private sector involvement in the implementation of Agenda 2063. They should develop laws and legal frameworks on public-private partnerships that are harmonized at the regional level;
- e. Member States should diversify their activities to generate wealth from ocean resources. In this regard, they should develop and implement policies that facilitate the involvement of women and young people in ocean-related economic activities. They should also develop and implement policies that protect the blue economy from the adverse impacts of climate change;
- f. The African Union should indicate how the United Nations could assist in the implementation of Agenda 2063.

High-level panel sessions [agenda item 4]

Domestication of Agenda 2063: regional and national dimensions of the first 10-year plan

Discussion

304. The panellists for the session included Ms. Mariam Mahamat Nour, Minister of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation of Chad; Mr. Elham Ibrahim, Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission; Ms. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission; Mr. Ibrahim Mayaki, Chief Executive Officer, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency; and Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning.

305. The session was moderated by Mr. Amadou Mahtar Ba, co-founder and Chair of All-Africa Global Media. Introducing the session, Mr. Ba stressed the importance of domesticating Agenda 2063 as an important component of its implementation, and noted the connections between the issue and the high-level ministerial policy dialogue on the theme of the conference held earlier in the day. He also put the domestication of Agenda 2063 into the context of the global development agenda, including the post-2015 Agenda. To kick-start the panel discussion, he posed questions on the three following issues: the extent to which Agenda 2063 had been domesticated into national development plans and strategies; the initiatives taken by member States and regional economic communities to implement Agenda 2063; and the challenges arising in the implementation of Agenda 2063.

306. Where the status of the domestication of Agenda 2063 in national development plans and strategies was concerned, the panellists observed that the majority of African countries had long-term visions with were in line with Agenda 2063. Indeed, Agenda 2063 had itself been developed in consultation with existing national and regional development plans. There was general consensus among the panellists regarding the ownership of Agenda 2063, including its financing. In that regard, it was suggested that domestic resource mobilization was key to the successful implementation of Agenda

2063, which also required the buy-in of all stakeholders, including the private sector and parliamentarians.

307. The panellists noted that, in the process leading to Agenda 2063, African countries had embarked on a number of initiatives, including formulation of the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda, the goals and objectives of which were similar to those of Agenda 2063. In addition, a results framework had been developed to ensure the accountability of the 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063. In developing some of the flagship projects under Agenda 2063, such as the high-speed train initiative and the single African air transport project, the African Union Commission had consulted African member States and the regional economic communities, with the result that a number of member States had volunteered to be part of the pilot projects. In monitoring progress, the African Union Commission would discuss the implementation modalities of the Agenda with member States and report back to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government every two years.

308. Notwithstanding certain achievements scored in the implementation of the Agenda 2063, effective execution of the projects had been hampered by a number of factors. Those included insufficient resources, governance issues, lack of ownership, inadequate dissemination and popularization of Agenda 2063 and associated plans at the national level, and the scarcity of legislative instruments to accommodate the domestication of continental frameworks. The panellists also observed that the poor state of infrastructure in the continent and the limited availability of data to monitor progress posed additional obstacles to implementation of Agenda 2063. In that context, emphasis was placed on the importance of energy and connectivity infrastructure.

309. In the ensuing discussion, participants stressed the importance of government leadership and full involvement in the implementation of Agenda 2063 through its first 10-year implementation plan. In sharing country experiences, participants reaffirmed the consistency of their national development strategies with Agenda 2063. Some, however, requested that the African Union Commission should devise domestication guidelines to facilitate the integration of Agenda 2063 into national and local-level plans and strategies. In addition, they emphasized the need to develop measurable indicators to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the first 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063.

310. In response to the perception that Africa already had many policy frameworks, the panellists observed that each of those frameworks were tailored to specific sectoral issues, and those in turn underpinned the overarching framework of Agenda 2063. Accordingly, it was agreed that investments in agricultural transformation, infrastructure development, trade and other areas were essential to drive implementation of the Agenda. Participants also emphasized the need for Agenda 2063 to be championed and owned by member States through wide consultation with all stakeholders.

Recommendations

311. The following recommendations emerged from the discussions:

- a. There is a need to develop an integrated and multisectoral approach in developing flagship projects to achieve the holistic goals of Agenda 2063. All stakeholders should be involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of the first 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and have their specific needs reflected in the plan;
- b. The 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 should be disaggregated to highlight projects at the continental, regional and national levels, and member States and regional economic communities should define outputs that would help in achieving the goals of the Agenda and recommend projects to be included in the plan;
- c. Member States and the regional economic communities should integrate Agenda 2063 and the projects which form part of its first 10-year plan into their respective national and regional development plans;
- d. The African Union Commission should devise domestication guidelines to facilitate the integration of Agenda 2063 into national and local-level plans and strategies;
- e. The implementation of Agenda 2063 should be a shared responsibility among all line ministries, parliaments and the private sector in member States;
- f. The African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the member States, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, African stakeholders and external partners, should work on a strategy for financing, including through the mobilization of domestic resources, the implementation of the Agenda 2063 flagship projects and, in

- particular, the first 10-year implementation plan, in line with the principle of subsidiarity, which should be effectively implemented;
- g. The African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, should develop measurable indicators to assist in the monitoring and evaluation of the first 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063.

Financing Agenda 2063: strategies for domestic resource mobilization and partnerships

Discussion

312. The panellists for the session included Mr. Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana; Mr. Trevor Manuel, Deputy Chair, Rothschild Group; Mr. Raphaël Mokoko, Deputy Minister of Economy, Finance and Planning of the Congo; Mr. Nhlanhla Musa Nene, Minister of Finance of South Africa; Ms. Frannie Léautier, co-founding partner and Chief Executive Officer, Mkoba Private Equity Fund; and Mr. Wu Hongbo, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

313. The session was moderated by Ms. Lerato Mbele, BBC journalist. To initiate the discussion, she raised the question of how Agenda 2063 could stimulate the remodelling of African economies, leading to their modernization and promoting further industrialization. She also wondered how the continent could empower women and young people as entrepreneurs and creators of jobs, encouraging them to be more inventive and innovative, while promoting the rule of law and ensuring contract protection and civil liberty.

314. In response, the panellists considered to what extent resources could be directed to the objectives of Agenda 2063 without placing undue fiscal strain on Governments. They highlighted the need for accountability on the manner in which Governments spent the money in their budgets and drew attention to the important role which bonds and the international financial market could play in providing adequate financial resources for Africa's transformation. Taxation also had an important function to perform in the domestic resource mobilization process within the continent, as did trade facilitation and the enhanced performance of small and medium-sized enterprises. They stressed the importance of tracking illicit financial flows, so that

domestic resources could be used for Africa's transformation: in that regard, recourse should be had to those national, regional and global institutions mandated to combat money laundering and other threats to financial systems.

315. Attention was drawn to the lack of political will, which had impeded efforts to tackle Africa's challenges in the past, and to the importance of enhancing the credibility of African leaders through the implementation of Agenda 2063 and of strengthening its appropriation by relevant stakeholders. Private sector participation in the economy, including through public-private partnerships, was seen as key to successful implementation of Agenda 2063, together with greater integration and collaboration with other African countries. In that regard, it was the shared responsibility of African countries, including their Governments, private sectors, and civil societies, to design the instruments necessary for attainment of the Agenda's goals and objectives. To that end, the Agenda should be broken down into achievable and measurable targets in the first 10-year implementation plan.

316. Panellists recalled that the United Nations, through its member States, was discussing financing issues associated with the post-2015 development agenda and that a zero draft had been formulated as the possible basis for an outcome document of the Third Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015. In that context, they reflected on similarities between the challenges faced in financing Agenda 2063 and the post-2015 development agenda and considered what African Governments could do to stimulate flows of private capital into Africa. While private equity was growing in importance in the financial sector, in particular for long-term finance, there were still constraints in Africa on the full use of those resources for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and investments in such enterprises should be scaled up through private equity to ensure that they met the financial imperatives of Agenda 2063. In addition, diaspora bonds were highlighted as an important means of channelling remittances towards the attainment of Africa's economic and social transformation.

317. In the ensuing discussion, participants emphasized that unlocking the investment potential of the continent would require taking advantage of previously underused financial mechanisms, such as private equity funds, diaspora bonds, international markets and pension funds. In addition, they stressed the need for the continent to

tackle the issue of the perception of Africa as a place of high risk by providing credit guarantees to private companies and improving the institutional and regulatory environment in which private companies operated.

318. They emphasized that Africa's development projects should as far as possible be initiated with domestic finances. Africa could make use of institutions such as its stock exchanges and the regional market to raise investments for small and medium-sized enterprises. Land and property tax collection could be used to mobilize increased domestic resources. In that respect, they underlined the challenge of good governance for proper use of domestic resources and stressed the need to encourage central banks to use available finances at their disposal for domestic investments in line with their mandates. They further argued that weak domestic resource mobilization strategies and increased illicit financial flows were the result of poorly negotiated deals and agreements, which required the strengthening of legal facilities and regulatory frameworks in African countries.

319. Attention was drawn to the need to design and strengthen strategies aimed at increasing the rate of return on both domestic investment and investments from outside African countries, in particular the diaspora, and to raise the profile of small and medium-sized enterprises with potential investors, including venture capital investment institutions. Those should bring ideas, investment and partnerships to foster Africa's development. African countries should also use their land resources to develop their still underdeveloped mortgage markets, thus giving ordinary individuals and small and medium-sized enterprises greater access to capital.

320. Participants underscored the need for timely and credible statistics in improving the way in which the African narrative was being presented. They stressed that Africans must speak with one voice in making decisions and agreements that affected Africa's standing on the global arena. In that regard, African countries must understand exactly what investors were looking for and design strategies to enhance industrialization and add value to African products. Appropriate regulatory frameworks were needed to facilitate those undertakings. The role of development institutions was also emphasized, primarily in relation to partnerships and the implementation of strategies to boost finance for development. There was wide agreement that African countries should have more ownership of their projects and development

initiatives, and that development partners should better align their support, to ensure that the beneficiary countries achieved their development priorities and goals.

Recommendations

321. In the light of their discussions, the participants formulated the following recommendations:

- a. African countries must track and curtail illicit financial flows, with a view to using the resources thus released for the continent's development needs. Accordingly, all member States should support the current efforts by the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to track illicit financial flows;
- b. Member States should take advantage of untapped sources of funding such as international financial markets, pension funds, diaspora bonds and other instruments to bridge the financial needs of the continent in meeting its transformation goals under Agenda 2063;
- c. Member States should provide the right institutional and regulatory incentives with a view to create an enabling and conducive environment for private sector engagement in public projects, including through well designed frameworks for public-private partnerships.

Financing for development: Africa's perspective

Discussion

322. The panellists for the session were Ms. Cristina Duarte, Minister of Finance of Cabo Verde; Mr. Seth Terkper, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning of Ghana; Ms. Elsie Kanza, Senior Director, Head of the Africa Department, World Economic Forum; and Mr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The session commenced with a brief presentation by Mr. Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs at the African Union Commission.

323. The moderator was Mr. Jean Karim Fall, editor-in-chief of *France 24*, who launched the discussion by raising salient issues related to Africa's perspective on financing for development. Those issues included the rules of operation of international cooperation to

meet the development financing needs of Agenda 2063, external debt, the current governance architecture of the international financial and monetary institutions, the impact of the environmental factors on Agenda 2063, and the need to expand the mandate of African central banks.

324. In his introductory statement, Mr. Maruping highlighted the importance of the domestication of Agenda 2063 and encouraged all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to be effective partners in its implementation. He saluted the efforts being made to prepare member States for the third International Conference for Financing for Development, including the regional consultation on financing for development and the second caucus of governors of African central banks, and called upon participants to make active contributions to the preparations for the conference.

325. In their statements, the panellists highlighted the need to strengthen the continent's leadership and ownership of its policies, with a view to forging new and strong partnerships that would support its development agenda. Robust institutions and innovative policies were needed, to ensure that debt played a positive role in the financing for development process and also in addressing the challenge of illicit financial flows, which represented a major drain on Africa's resources. On the issue of expanding the mandate of African central banks, they stressed that the banks should remain independent and retain as their principal mandate the maintenance of macroeconomic stability. At the same time, the independence of central banks should not hinder the deployment of innovative financing mechanisms, crowdfunding schemes and systems like the M-Pesa initiative in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.

326. Panellists reflected on the possible routes by which African countries should seek access to funding. The experience of Ghana was cited to demonstrate how countries graduating from lower-income status should pursue access to international capital markets to meet their funding requirements. Other avenues to be explored included private sector participation in public-private partnerships, philanthropic and non-philanthropic funds, such as the Africa50 Infrastructure Fund under the African Development Bank, and increased domestic resource mobilization. They argued that African debt should be leveraged in a manner that shifted the burden away from the taxpayers and stressed the need for African countries to join forces in demanding reform of the international tax treaties, thereby

giving greater taxing rights to source countries. One panellist warned, however, against excessive borrowing from private equity and called for strong measures to address the haemorrhaging of Africa's resources through, among other practices, profit shifting, tax evasion and tax avoidance and as a consequence of investor-State dispute settlements, which tended to be biased against the State.

327. In the ensuing discussion, participants highlighted the need to rely on domestic resources as the main vehicle for financing development, in particular over the following 10–20 years, when levels of available capital on the continent would continue to rise. Incentives were needed to encourage the development-oriented allocation of resources and to increase the efficiency of State-owned enterprises through strengthened public-private partnerships and marketing tailored to the needs and specific features of individual countries. The roles of urbanization and the demographic dividends were highlighted as important means of enhancing domestic resource mobilization and efficient resource use: thus, without proper investment in women and young people, Africa's development would not meet the needs of its people.

328. There was general consensus that central banks should remain independent and autonomous to ensure macroeconomic stability and safety of reserves. Participants also highlighted the need to develop local capital markets to alleviate exchange rate risk. In addition, the right conditions must be set in place to ensure a fairer distribution of resources, including macroeconomic stability, appropriate labour laws and fiscal reforms.

329. Acknowledging that great strides had been made towards increasing revenue, enhancing growth through social protection, improving tax buoyancy through payroll reforms and procurement rules, and embarking on new and innovative sources of finance, participants called for more attention to be paid to issues of tax evasion and avoidance and the investor-State dispute resolution agreements, which were generally unfavourable to African countries. They drew attention to important challenges identified in Agenda 2063, such as maintaining appropriate budgetary policies that would cater for both short-term and long-term needs, and the issues of market risks and volatility and their impact on both external and domestic debts.

Recommendations

330. In the light of those discussions, the participants put forward the following recommendations:

- a. Member States should continue to invest in the training, health and job creation needs of women and young people;
- b. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should establish a continental infrastructure development fund which will target the environmental, urbanization and trade issues and the transformation of rural communities;
- c. Development partners should meet their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to overseas development assistance and to increase that to 1 per cent by 2020;
- d. African central banks should consider supporting the development of initiatives to improve domestic resource mobilization, such as the M-Pesa initiative in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, and enabling regulations on crowdfunding;
- e. Member States should continue to pursue prudent macroeconomic management to ensure debt sustainability, in line with the effective mobilization of resources and overall national development plans and strategies;
- f. Member States should strengthen their tax regulation systems to address illicit financial outflows, and establish alternative dispute resolution mechanisms which are more balanced and which ensure that African Governments do not incur unreasonable litigation costs;
- g. Member States and regional economic communities should establish stable and flexible labour laws to facilitate and encourage the movement of capital and labour within the continent;
- h. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should take steps to establish a pan-African stock market;
- i. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should strengthen the environmental impact assessment capacities of member States to ensure environmental protection and sustainability.

Presentation of the communiqué of the Second Caucus of African Central Bank Governors

331. Mr. Yohannes Ayalew, Vice-Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia, presented the communiqué adopted at the second caucus of African central bank governors, held in Addis Ababa on 29 March 2015, on the theme of the perspectives of African central banks on sustainable development financing.

332. As set out in the communiqué, where domestic resource mobilization was concerned, African central bank governors committed themselves to continuing to provide a conducive macroeconomic environment; supporting the development of an inclusive domestic financial sector with adequate and affordable access by small and medium-sized enterprises, individuals and households to a full range of financial services; further deepening the domestic financial sector by providing medium and long-term financing, including reform of the pension system, and developing the microfinance subsector; improving the regulation of the financial sector, using appropriate micro and macro prudential measures; and supporting efforts to promote public-private partnerships.

333. They underscored the importance of international resources, including overseas development assistance and foreign direct investment, and called for an extension of debt-relief measures, such as the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, to those African countries that had not yet benefited from them. They committed themselves to the continuous building of buffers to promote the financial stability of African economies and to mitigate against domestic and external shocks; to supporting the development of such financial instruments as diaspora bonds to channel remittances into development programmes and projects; and to working for international and regional mechanisms to reduce the costs of remittances, with a view to increasing the inflows of remittances into the continent. They also expressed support for the creation of regional payment systems and capital markets to facilitate trade and investment.

334. They reiterated the need for the reform of international financial institutions and monetary systems to give a greater voice to African countries; they called for the strengthened regulation and supervision of financial markets and institutions which were currently under-

regulated; and they encouraged credit-rating agencies to provide more accurate and balanced assessments of African economies. They undertook to strengthen the tools for stress-testing of the financial sector, and to deepen cooperation and coordination in the implementation of antimoneylaundering laws. They committed themselves to harnessing the use of technology in extending financial services and in building regulatory capacity for financial stability. In that context, they undertook to provide capacity-building services and financial support to improve the quality of data for the formulation and implementation of policies.

335. The participants took note of the communiqué and requested the central banks to play a more active role in the tracking and reporting of financial flows, and to contribute to capacity development with a view to improving the monitoring of data for policy planning and implementation.

Consideration of the report and major recommendations of the meeting of the Committee of Experts [agenda item 5]

336. Under the agenda item, participants considered the report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts, together with the Committee's major recommendations, set out as nine draft resolutions. Following discussions on some issues in the report and the resolutions, participants took note of the report and approved the nine resolutions with some amendments. The report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts is attached to the present report as annex III.

Consideration and adoption of the draft ministerial statement and draft resolutions [agenda item 6]

337. Under the agenda item, participants considered a draft version of the ministerial statement of the meeting, made general comments and observations on various sections of the draft statement and proposed minor amendments.

338. Following those observations, the draft ministerial statement was unanimously adopted, as amended. The resolutions put forward by the Committee of Experts and approved by participants during their consideration of the Committee's report, under agenda item 5, were

also adopted. The Ministerial Statement is appended to the present report as annex I and the resolutions as annex II.

339. Other No other matters were raised at the meeting.

Closing of the meeting [agenda item 8]

340. Concluding remarks were made during the closing session by Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA, and Mr. Mwakyembe.

341. In his statement, Mr. Mwencha called upon the ministers to speak with one voice in implementing Agenda 2063. He reiterated the importance of the domestication of Agenda 2063, not only in governmental deliberations and forums but also in all contours of public life, and underscored domestic resource mobilization as the key aspect of transforming Africa into a competitive economic environment. To that end, African countries must overcome their financial reliance on development partners, which was not only unsustainable but also undesirable. Follow the current meetings, he looked forward to the opportunity to deliberate on African development policy issues in a much larger context, during the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015.

342. Mr. Hamdok said that the important deliberations at the current meeting had come at a most opportune time and had significantly contributed to understanding African development challenges from a global perspective. He reiterated the keen anticipation expressed by Mr. Mwencha for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. He believed that the Joint Annual Meetings made possible the articulation of a common and systematic African position on development finance that would be delivered with one voice during the forthcoming conference in July 2015. Accordingly, he applauded the ministers for having raised Africa to the top of the global agenda on financing development and for having engaged the rest of the world in that endeavour.

343. Turning to the format of the Joint Annual Meetings, he proposed a slight change for future such confer-

ences, to enable representatives of member States to be directly involved in the process leading to the setting of the agenda and programme of work, an arrangement which he believed would improve the quality of deliberations. He also proposed that planners, development practitioners, activists, State and non-State actors should all be more closely engaged in that annual process, which should become an important date in their calendars.

344. For his part, Mr. Mwakyembe expressed his firm conviction that Agenda 2063 was testament to the single vision and single strategy for Africa adopted by all the continent's leaders. He urged everyone involved to ensure that Agenda 2063 became a reality, and not a far-fetched dream. In conclusion, he urged all participants to provide feedback on the organization of the Joint Annual Meetings, with a view to improving future such events and ensuring that participants' needs were fully met.

345. Following those remarks and the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, 31 March 2015.

Annex I

Ministerial Statement

We, African ministers of finance, planning, economic development and integration, meeting in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 March 2015 for the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development,

Welcoming the presence of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, the President of Rwanda, Mr. Paul Kagame, former Heads of State and Government, the governors of our national and regional central banks, and other high-level dignitaries and special guests,

Having deliberated on the theme “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development” and having saluted the fact that Agenda 2063 emerged from consultative processes and will help African economies to overcome their continued vulnerabilities, including their dependence on the extraction and export of raw materials,

Therefore declare:

1. Agenda 2063, the long-term vision for the continent, encapsulates the hopes, aspirations and expectations of Africans for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena. Agenda 2063 should serve as the vision for the structural transformation of the continent.
2. The foundation for Agenda 2063 lies in present conditions. We note that economic growth in Africa rose from 3.7 per cent in 2013 to 3.9 per cent in 2014, which is relatively good in global terms, albeit still far below the double-digit growth needed for structural transformation. Although the medium-term economic outlook for the continent remains favourable, there are

downside risks that could adversely affect its growth prospects, such as the fall in the price of oil and other commodities, the slow economic recovery in developed countries, tighter global monetary policies, weather-related shocks, and political instability in some of our countries.

3. While our countries have made appreciable efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals, much remains to be done to achieve inclusive and equitable development in Africa. We remain committed to tackling poverty and inequality, providing productive employment and decent jobs for young Africans, empowering our women, and prioritizing the welfare of African children to ensure a robust and vibrant 2063 generation. These noble objectives require us to implement policies to stimulate productive activities for men and women so as to enable Africa to reap the benefits of its demographic dividend, including scaling up investments in the areas of education and health. We also commit ourselves to prioritizing investments in the well-being of young people through access to high quality education. We therefore reiterate our full support for a post-2015 development agenda that should take into account the key goals set out in the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063.

4. The fragile foundations of social services in several of our countries were revealed during the Ebola outbreak, which had a devastating impact on Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. We note with appreciation the material and financial support provided to those countries by other African countries and the African private sector. We renew our unequivocal support for the Governments and peoples of the three countries and welcome the pledges made thus far by the international community to support them. We appeal for immediate steps to be taken to restore growth and enable recovery in those countries, including debt cancellation.

5. The successful implementation of Agenda 2063 will depend to a great extent on strong linkages between the planning, mobilizing and financing of the processes of structural transformation. We welcome the intention to split Agenda 2063 into separate 10 year development plans to facilitate its implementation. We are aware that African countries have had varying experiences with development planning, but successes in other regions show that inclusive, well-articulated and well-resourced development plans play a critical role in spurring structural transformation. We therefore commit ourselves to improving planning processes in our countries by strengthening institutional and human capacities at various levels.

6. High-quality statistical information and data are essential for the proper planning and measurement of development outcomes. Africa should generate its own data to enable it to better monitor and track economic and social targets, including the goals and objectives of Agenda 2063. A data revolution in Africa would afford our continent the opportunity to interact with diverse data communities and to embrace a wide range of data sources, tools and innovative technologies, which would enable the continent to produce disaggregated data, including gender-disaggregated data, for decision-making, service delivery and citizen engagement. An African data revolution should be built on the principles of openness across the data value chain and a vibrant data ecosystem driven by national priorities and inclusive national statistical systems. In this regard, we underscore the importance of strengthening existing pan-African statistical institutions, as well as other similar institutions agreed to by Heads of State and Government, to support the implementation of the first 10-year plan of Agenda 2063.

7. It is important to harmonize national, subregional and continental development plans in the context of Agenda 2063. We take note of the commonalities existing between certain national plans and Agenda 2063. It will also be important to leverage continental frameworks articulated under the New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency, such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa action plan, the Africa Mining Vision, the Boosting Intra-African Trade initiative, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the Social Policy Framework for Africa. The coordinated implementation of these frameworks will be instrumental in achieving Africa's structural transformation objectives.

8. African people must be mobilized in support of Agenda 2063, as their participation is essential for its successful implementation. This requires the building of political coalitions in support of structural transformation, with the public and private sectors, parliamentarians, civil society organizations, the media, the academic sector and others all taking ownership of the process. We also call upon our countries and pan-African institutions to popularize Agenda 2063, especially among young Africans, through advocacy, education and communication strategies, and the provision of appropriate skills to underpin structural transformation.

9. Adequate and predictable financing is indispensable for the successful implementation of development plans and strategies. While official development assistance has been helpful, it is a fragile platform on which to base a structural transformation agenda. Agenda 2063 needs to be anchored on domestic resource mobilization, through effective tax policies, savings mobilization, and the use of other financing mechanisms such as pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, diaspora bonds and remittances. We urge African central banks and pan-African institutions to increase their support for efforts to boost the continent's socioeconomic transformation and its financing.

10. We are gratified that the final report of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, the establishment of which we had advocated, was the subject of a special declaration by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union. Apart from reducing the resources available on the continent for development, illicit financial flows have a negative impact on governance and undermine efforts to add value to Africa's natural resources before they are exported. We endorse the recommendations set out in the report and call upon the international community to complement Africa's efforts to track, stop and repatriate illicit financial flows.

11. Financing is also vital for the implementation of global agreements relating to sustainable development, such as the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. Accordingly, we endorse the draft document entitled "Financing for development: Africa's perspectives" as a living document that takes into account the outcomes of the regional consultations held in preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is to take place in Addis Ababa in July 2015. We urge Africa to continue to speak with one voice throughout the Inter-

national Conference on Financing for Development process. We also urge African negotiators to do their utmost to ensure that Africa's interests and concerns are reflected in the final outcome document, including in the areas of domestic resource mobilization, international resources for development, international financial and technical cooperation, external debt, the international monetary and trading system, international trade, technology innovation, capacity-building and strong follow-up mechanisms.

12. We acknowledge that in addition to planning, mobilization and financing, other key issues will affect the implementation of Agenda 2063. African countries will need to articulate credible macroeconomic frameworks that can underpin the planning process. Infrastructure development initiatives can help to boost production capacity, reduce transaction costs and promote structural transformation. We identify with the priority infrastructure projects contained in Agenda 2063, as well as those being overseen directly through the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative. We call for policies to be drawn up for the harmonization of laws, rules and regulations at the national, subregional and continental levels.

13. We remain cognizant of the key role of industrialization in the process of structural transformation. It is important to scale up ongoing efforts made in this regard by African countries, such as improving the policy environment in order to promote investment in manufacturing, taking steps to increase the domestic processing of commodities and raw materials, promoting backward and forward linkages, fostering national and regional value chains and improving the competitiveness of national economies. These efforts must, however, be complemented by actions to enhance the role and use of science, technology and innovation, as well as the mobilization of aid for trade at the international level. We also recognize the critical role of the private sector in industrialization and urge African countries to ensure that the concerns of domestic entrepreneurs are integrated into industrialization and trade policies.

14. We recognize that the export of primary products has contributed to growth in Africa. We are also aware, however, that the continent's continued dependence on exports of raw commodities deepens the fragility of its economies. We are of the view that Africa can change this trajectory through a process of commodity-based industrialization that makes systemic use of regional integration, especially intra-African trade. Particularly

important in this regard are regional value chains, better negotiation of international trade agreements and trade finance. We believe that Africa should invest more resources into the production of higher-value-added goods, which are globally more competitive and also capable of boosting the volumes of intra-African trade.

15. We are witness to a growing segmentation and decentralization of global processes of production. The increasing cost of labour in Asia and improvements in the business environment in African countries are factors that make Africa attractive for the relocation of manufacturing activities. Africa needs to develop industrialization and trade policies that leverage these trends, and we need to allow our countries to tap into evolving global and regional value chains as part of a strategic entry into industrial development and technological upgrading. Accordingly, we reaffirm that there is a strategic link between industrialization and trade, and that, under the right conditions, they can reinforce each other and place Africa on the path to structural transformation. Properly utilized, this link can help to solve the paradox of high unemployment and extreme poverty coexisting with robust growth.

16. We recognize the need for the appropriate sequencing of trade policy at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, in line with industrial policy needs and development objectives. We urge African countries, when negotiating trade and investment agreements, to assess the impact of those agreements on industrialization and economic transformation. Given that regional integration is Africa's priority, emphasis should be placed on plans and policies that promote that objective. We recognize the imperative of fast-tracking the establishment of the continental free trade area, in view of its potential impact on industrial development.

17. We are aware of the potential of the continental free trade area to bring about an enlarged market that facilitates economies of scale and promotes harmonization and coordination of trade instruments. The continental free trade area will also help to resolve the challenge of multiple and overlapping memberships of regional economic communities and to improve regional infrastructure and interconnectivity. Accordingly, we agree to support the negotiations for the establishment of a continental free trade area, which will cover trade in goods and services. We urge the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa to accelerate the development of the planned Africa Regional Integration Index, which

can be used as a tool to assist in the continental free trade area negotiations.

18. We are aware that Africa is the region in the world most affected by greenhouse gas emissions, even though it generates the fewest of such emissions and has the weakest capacity to adapt to their effects. Africa should adopt a progressive and ambitious stance in the climate change negotiations to be held in Paris in 2015, with a view to securing a binding agreement. We insist that an agreement in Paris must fulfil the recommendations contained in the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and address the key pillars of the Regional Cooperation Framework of the Bali Process, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. We urge the adoption of science-informed and evidence-based policy, planning and practices to make African development sustainable, more resilient and less vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate variability and change. Low-carbon development pathways to a green economy or a blue economy can also unlock new economic opportunities.

19. We recognize the importance of partnerships to support the implementation of Africa's development vision. We are also aware of the need for Africa to enter into new forms of partnership that are anchored on greater equality and mutual respect and that are truly beneficial for the continent, especially for its transformative agenda. In this regard, we strongly encourage our countries to explore South-South and triangular cooperation in order to leverage the opportunities offered by emerging economic powers. We urge our traditional partners, however, to continue to support our development efforts.

20. We endorse the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and call for its full and effective implementation. In this connection, we urge African landlocked countries to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies, in order to ensure its effective implementation. We also call upon the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities and all other regional and subregional organizations to provide the necessary support to African landlocked countries through their respective work programmes and in accordance with their respective mandates.

21. We note that the progress made by African least developed countries towards achieving the goals and targets of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) has been uneven, and call upon development partners to provide enhanced and preferential official development assistance to African least developed countries. We reiterate the need to institutionalize the review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and to ensure that African least developed countries are adequately represented in that review. We welcome the offer of the Government of Italy to host a ministerial meeting on structural transformation and graduation for African least developed countries, in June 2015. We request the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and other partners, to organize an African regional meeting in preparation for the proposed ministerial meeting in Italy.

22. We welcome the continued strengthening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa as a means of ensuring coherence in the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. We therefore appreciate the decision to convene a session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa during our meeting. We note that the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union will expire in 2016 and we salute the initiative taken by the United Nations and the African Union Commission to formulate a new framework as a successor to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme, for a renewed United Nations–African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda.

23. We thank the Government and people of Ethiopia for their continued hospitality to the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa and for the courtesies afforded to us to ensure the success of our meetings.

Annex II Resolutions

The ministers attending the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, hereinafter referred to as “the Conference of Ministers”, adopted the following resolutions.

928 (XLVIII). Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling decision Assembly/AU/Dec.565(XXIV) adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, in which the Assembly, among other things, adopted the Agenda 2063 framework document and the popular version of Agenda 2063;¹ requested the African Union Commission to intensify measures aimed at popularizing Agenda 2063; further requested member States and the regional economic communities to accelerate the domestication of Agenda 2063 and integrate it into their respective development initiatives and plans; and also requested the African Union Commission to finalize all necessary consultations on the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 with a view to submitting it to the African Union policy organs at their June 2015 meetings,

Appreciating the strong collaboration between the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank in formulating and popularizing Agenda 2063,

Noting with satisfaction the progress made and the measures taken in the elaboration and finalization of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063,

Noting that several member States and regional economic communities are in the process of developing successor plans to their current national and regional development frameworks,

Recognizing the importance of identifying and addressing the capacity requirements for the implementation of Agenda 2063, including the first 10-year implementation plan, and the importance of developing human and institutional capacities, systems and work processes,

Recognizing also the need for solid data, including baseline data, and the institution of periodic reviews, for the tracking of progress, and the need to revitalize and strengthen national statistical and planning systems,

Welcoming the proposed study on capacity needs for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the recognition of the need to build critical skills in statistics, planning, negotiation and other areas,

- I. *Urges* the African Union Commission, in the finalization of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063:
 - a. To further improve on the milestones, targets and strategies contained in the plan;
 - b. To explore synergies and opportunities for the harmonization of the objectives, targets and indicators of Agenda 2063 and those of the post2015 development agenda;
 - c. To establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks;
 - d. To clarify roles and responsibilities and strengthen coordination mechanisms with relevant partners and stakeholders;
 - e. To remove and avoid imposing specific targets on public expenditure and to maintain

¹ Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, third edition, African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, January 2015.

- flexibility in fiscal policy and budget allocations in accordance with countries' priorities, specific characteristics and levels of development;
2. *Requests* member States to review the draft 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and provide comments thereon to the African Union Commission by 30 June 2015;
 3. *Calls for* the holding of expert meetings and ministerial committee meetings to review the implementation and financing plans of the flagship projects prior to their submission to the Assembly of the African Union;
 4. *Urges* member States to take all necessary measures to popularize Agenda 2063 at all levels and to incorporate it into their national plans;
 5. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the regional economic communities and other stakeholders to support member States in incorporating Agenda 2063 into their national plans;
 6. *Urges* member States, regional economic communities and the African Union Commission, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and all regional and external stakeholders:
 - a. To consider the financing of Agenda 2063 in a manner that takes into account, first, domestic resource mobilization; second, the leveraging of existing and new financial intermediation vehicles to be created; and, third, access to finance facilitation resources such as project development funds and guarantee and risk-sharing facilities;
 - b. To address the issues of illicit financial flows, natural resource rent maximization and regional capital market development;
 - c. To deepen the examination of the strategy for the domestic and external financing of Agenda 2063;
 7. *Undertakes* to involve civil society and the private sector in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063;
 8. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to organize a multi-stakeholder consultation on the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 by 30 September 2015;
 9. *Also calls upon* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African

Development Bank to employ South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in support of the implementation of Agenda 2063;

10. *Requests* the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa to establish by 31 March 2016 an economic development observatory, mandated with setting in place an early warning system for risks to African economies and proposing measures to mitigate their possible consequences.

929 (XLVIII). Third International Conference on Financing for Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Taking note of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document entitled "The future we want",

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/204 of 20 December 2013, on follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 68/279 of 30 June 2014, on modalities for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which calls upon the regional commissions, with the support of regional development banks and other relevant entities, to hold regional consultations, as appropriate, the outcome of which could serve as input to the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Welcoming the steps taken by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session to convene inclusive and transparent intergovernmental consultations, with the participation of major institutional stakeholders, in relation to the financing for development process,

Welcoming also the fact that the third International Conference on Financing for Development will be held in

Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015, and will be at the highest possible political level, attended by Heads of State and Government, relevant ministers, including ministers for finance, foreign affairs and development cooperation, special representatives and other representatives,

Welcoming further the draft document entitled “Financing for development: Africa’s perspectives”,

Noting the contributions of the regional consultation held in Addis Ababa on 23 and 24 March 2015 in the lead-up to the third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Noting also the January, April and June 2015 consultations of the negotiation process for the formulation of the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Emphasizing the importance of producing an ambitious outcome document at the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in particular in order to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda,

Stressing that the outcome document of the third International Conference on Financing for Development should take into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the right to development, while at the same time respecting the development policy space of African countries for the implementation of their poverty eradication and sustainable development programmes,

Highlighting the importance of taking into account the priorities of Africa as identified in the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda, the African Agenda 2063 and the continental programmes embedded in the New Partnership for Africa’s Development,

1. *Endorses* the draft document entitled “Financing for development: Africa’s perspectives” as a living document, taking into account inputs from the Chair’s summary of the proceedings of the regional consultations held in Addis Ababa on 23 and 24 March 2015;

2. *Requests* the African groups of negotiators in New York to use the draft document entitled “Financing for development: Africa’s perspectives”, as an input in negotiating the outcome document of the third International

Conference on Financing for Development and urges Africa to speak with one voice throughout the International Conference on Financing for Development process.

930 (XLVIII). African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The Conference of Ministers,

Reaffirming the commitments to sustainable development made by African countries at major United Nations conferences and summits, notably at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1997 special session of the General Assembly on the five-year review of the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 2000 Millennium Summit, the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and also those contained in multilateral environment agreements and in declarations and decisions of the Assembly of the African Union,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/290, in which the Assembly referred to the decision contained in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, to establish a high-level political forum on sustainable development which would subsequently replace the Commission on Sustainable Development, and decided that the high-level political forum should provide political leadership and guidance, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, and enhance the integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development,

Recalling also the recommendation contained in the outcome document of the African regional implementation meeting for the followup processes to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,² that the Economic Commission for Africa should convene the Africa Regional Political Forum in preparation for the sessions of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, jointly with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with other relevant partners,

² *Outcome Document of the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting for the Post-Rio+20 Follow-up Processes.*

Acknowledging the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and the annual regional meetings, with the involvement of other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate,

Noting with appreciation the work on the sustainable development goals currently being undertaken by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and other partners,

1. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, to take all necessary steps to convene on a biennial basis the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;
2. *Undertakes* to work in close collaboration with national Governments to support the convening of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development;
3. *Encourages* member States to scale up their commitment to and support for the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

931 (XLVIII). Data revolution and statistical development

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that the implementation of Agenda 2063 will require comprehensive, accurate and timely data,

Building on its resolution 923 (XLVII) on the post-2015 development agenda,

Reiterating the importance of statistics information for fostering Africa's economic and political integration and for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, policies and initiatives, such as Agenda 2063, the extraordinary summit on employment, poverty eradication and inclusive development, and the post-2015 development agenda,

Recalling that at its twenty-third ordinary session, held in Malabo on 26 and 27 June 2014, the Assembly of the African Union asked the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Development Programme to organize a high-level conference on the data revolution,

Taking into account the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, which called for a data revolution to make information and data more available, more accessible and more broadly disaggregated,

Noting with satisfaction the entry into force in April 2014 of the African Charter on Statistics,

Noting the progress made by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank in developing and implementing continental frameworks, strategies and initiatives such as the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, the African programme on governance, peace and security statistics, and the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme,

Recognizing that there is a lack of reliable data on key indicators of labour markets, migration and informal economy that can be used to monitor and evaluate progress made on commitments such as the Ouagadougou Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa,

Noting that several African countries are graduating to middle-income status,

1. *Endorses* the report of the High-level Conference on the Data Revolution, adopts its recommendations and calls upon member States, the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other development partners to implement it;
2. *Resolves* to lead the African data revolution, bringing together diverse data communities and using a wide range of data sources, tools and innovative technologies, with a view to providing timely and disaggregated data for decision-making, service delivery, citizen engagement and information to drive Africa's social, economic and structural transformation;
3. *Undertakes* to ensure that the African data revolution is built on the principle of openness across the data value chain and on vibrant data ecosystems driven by national priorities and anchored in national statistics systems that are inclusive of all data communities and stakeholders;

4. *Commits itself* to providing adequate funds for the data revolution and data communities to ensure their sustainability;

5. *Commends* member States that have signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics and calls upon those that have not done so to sign and ratify it as soon as possible;

6. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the relevant agencies of the United Nations to create a working group for the development of indicators for the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 (2014–2023);

7. *Calls upon* member States to participate actively in the 2020 round of population and housing censuses;

8. *Requests* member States to implement the African programme on governance, peace and security statistics and the African Union Commission to ensure that the programme is integrated into the Africa Peer Review Mechanism;

9. *Requests* the African Union Commission and the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia to accelerate the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics, to be based in Tunis, and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, to be based in Yamoussoukro, to ensure better coordination and harmonization of statistics in Africa;

10. *Calls upon* development partners to strengthen the capacity of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa working group on the labour market and the informal economy, in order to produce better statistics and implement the framework for work statistics put forward at the nineteenth session of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians, held in Geneva from 2 to 11 October 2013;

11. *Calls upon* member States to conduct labour force surveys on a regular basis in order to obtain data on the status of employment in their countries, and requests the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration, with the support of development partners such as the African Development Bank, the European Union and

the World Bank, to strengthen the production of migration statistics in Africa with a view to improving the monitoring of the Joint Labour Migration Programme;

12. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to fast-track the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics;

13. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to develop an index measuring the emerging-economy status of African countries, in line, among other things, with the guidance in Agenda 2063 and the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda.

932 (XLVIII). African Social Development Index

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that, despite the unprecedented rates of economic growth in Africa since the turn of the millennium, exclusion continues to hinder economic and social development,

Mindful that the path towards an inclusive structural transformation requires social policies that will provide equal opportunities for all and will convert economic growth into direct improvements to people's lives,

Noting that this transformation process requires people-centred policies,

Acknowledging that, during the second session of the Committee on Gender and Social Development, in 2011, member States requested the Economic Commission for Africa to develop a tool to measure progress towards inclusive development,

Taking note of the significant number of member States that participated in the elaboration and piloting of the African Social Development Index, as a policy tool that reflects the particular context of Africa and was designed by experts from the continent,

Recognizing the efforts made by the Governments of Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal and Zambia in establishing national implementation teams and in

participating as pilot countries in the development and application of the African Social Development Index,

Noting that the African Social Development Index assesses progress in addressing social inclusion in the Economic Commission for Africa country profiles,

Emphasizing that the African Social Development Index adopts a holistic and comprehensive approach to inclusive development by addressing not just poverty, but also the various dimensions of exclusion throughout the human life cycle, with a gender and geographical focus,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Africa in developing the African Social Development Index as a policy tool to support member States in their efforts to promote inclusive development and develop social and economic policies with a view to reducing human exclusion on the continent;

2. *Encourages* all member States to adopt the African Social Development Index and mainstream it into their national development plans, and to acknowledge the need to address human exclusion as a condition for progress towards inclusive development;

3. *Recommends* that the African Social Development Index become a standard reference point for assessing progress in social development on the continent;

4. *Urges* all stakeholders, including development partners, academic institutions and civil society organizations, to support African Governments in rolling out the African Social Development Index and in building national capacities to use the tool as a monitoring and policy instrument throughout the continent;

5. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa to report to the Conference of Ministers at its March 2016 session on the implementation of the present resolution.

933 (XLVIII). Framework for a renewed United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/1 adopting the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which Heads of State and Government supported the development and implementation of a 10-year plan for capacity-building with the African Union,

Recalling also the Declaration signed by the United Nations Secretary-General and the African Union Chairperson on 16 November 2006 entitled “Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union”,

Aware that the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union has since entered in effect and has provided an important vehicle for focused United Nations support for the capacity-building efforts of the African Union,

Aware also that the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union comes to an end in 2016 and that the African Union has called for a successor programme to be formulated to continue the United Nations-African Union partnership, based on Agenda 2063,

Aware further that the African Union Commission and the United Nations, under the auspices of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, have taken the initiative to draw up a framework for a renewed United Nations-African Union partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027, which is anchored on Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan,

1. *Commends* all the stakeholders in the partnership – the United Nations entities and the African Union, including the regional economic communities and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development – on the efforts deployed to implement the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union;

2. *Also commends* the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, its clusters, subclusters and subregional coordination mechanisms for delivering invaluable support to the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

3. *Welcomes* the initiative to formulate the framework for a renewed United Nations-African Union partner-

ship on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017–2027;

4. *Endorses* the framework as the successor to the 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union;

5. *Requests* the African Union Commission to submit the framework to the Assembly of the African Union for consideration and adoption at its twenty-fifth ordinary session in South Africa in June 2015, and for its subsequent transmittal to the General Assembly at its seventieth session in September 2015 for consideration and adoption as the new United Nations programme of support for the African Union;

6. *Calls upon* the General Assembly, bilateral and multilateral partners and the international community at large to lend their full support to the implementation of the framework in tangible and enabling ways.

934 (XLVIII). Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/137, in which the Assembly endorsed the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness from world markets and high transit costs, continues seriously to impede sustainable and inclusive development in African landlocked developing countries,

Recalling that the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action is to address in a holistic manner the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints,

Taking note of Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan,

1. *Endorses* the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024;

2. *Invites* African landlocked and transit developing countries, regional and subregional organizations and all other stakeholders to implement the Vienna Programme of Action in its priority areas of fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, regional integration and cooperation, structural economic transformation and means of implementation at all levels, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner;

3. *Urges* concerned member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into the programme of work of the Commission, as appropriate and within its mandate, and to submit analytical reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in its paragraph 75;

5. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, regional economic communities and all other relevant regional and subregional organizations to integrate the Vienna Programme of Action into their programme of work, as appropriate, within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner in line with Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan;

6. *Encourages* the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, as appropriate, and in line with the subregional and national priorities of landlocked developing countries.

935 (XLVIII). Least developed countries in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling paragraph 149 of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–

2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action), which entrusts United Nations regional commissions and agencies with the responsibility of undertaking biennial reviews of the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling also paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 69/231, recalling paragraph 157 of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in which the General Assembly was invited to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, which would be informed, among other things, by national and regional reviews,

Recognizing that 34 out of the 48 countries belonging to the United Nations category of least developed countries are on the continent of Africa, with corresponding implications and benefits for improved development circumstances,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,³

Welcoming the significant progress made by African least developed countries in reducing extreme poverty, child and maternal mortality and malnutrition and expanding access to primary education, and recognizing the need for continued strong partnerships to sustain progress in these areas;

Noting that African least developed countries have made mixed progress towards achieving the goals and targets of the Istanbul Programme of Action and continue to be confronted with multiple and complex development challenges,

Concerned that, during the initial years of implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, some of these countries have experienced reduced economic growth, with persistent narrow production and export bases, continued infrastructure deficits and an underskilled labour force, all of which factors have constrained their own ongoing efforts and those of their development partners to promote sustainable development, compounded by a decline in official development assistance resources,

Underscoring that the ownership, leadership and primary responsibility for development in African least developed countries rest with themselves,

Emphasizing that good governance, inclusiveness and transparency, and also domestic resource mobilization, are central to the development process of African least developed countries and that these efforts need to be given tangible and substantial international support,

Recalling the critical influence of international factors and stronger support measures by development partners on strong and sustainable economic growth and development in African least developed countries,

Stressing that partnerships between African least developed countries and development partners should be strengthened within the framework of shared responsibility and mutual accountability through renewed and strengthened global partnerships,

Expressing satisfaction at the proposals for specific least-developed-country deliverables, in particular for a technology bank and investment promotion regimes dedicated to the least developed countries, as outlined in paragraphs 14 and 45, respectively, of resolution 69/231,

1. *Calls for* the adoption and full operationalization of specific least-developed-country deliverables, namely the technology bank and investment promotion regimes dedicated to the least developed countries;
2. *Encourages* African least developed countries to intensify their efforts to fulfil the commitments and recommendations of the Istanbul Programme of Action with the objective of graduating from the status of least developed countries;
3. *Calls upon* development partners to provide African least developed countries with additional, enhanced, preferential, concessional and most favourable treatment in the areas of finance, technologies, know-how and other resources, and to accord them differential and flexible treatment in respect of international commitments and obligations that are not commensurate with their capacity, needs and stage of development;
4. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the African Union Commission and other partner institutions on their commitment and technical exper-

³ A/69/95-E/2014/81.

tise in taking forward the concerns and requests from African least developed countries;

5. *Requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the African Union Commission and other partner institutions to continue to address the concerns and requests from African least developed countries, with a view to ensuring that those countries are able to satisfy the necessary graduation criteria;

6. *Also requests* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, to hold the next biennial regional review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 during the tenth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

936 (XLVIII). Progress and further development of the African Risk Capacity Agency

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling decision Assembly/AU/Dec.417(XIX) of the Assembly of the African Union, adopted at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa in July 2012, to endorse in principle the proposal to establish the African Risk Capacity Agency as a specialized agency of the African Union, with a view to providing cost-effective contingency financing for participating countries seeking to improve their planning and preparation for and response to natural disasters,

Commending the secretariat of the African Risk Capacity Agency on the expedient implementation of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.417(XIX), the mobilization of over \$200 million for the continent, and the efficient operationalization of the Agency, which represents a new regional integration model,

Acknowledging that, as witnessed in the case of the Ebola crisis in West Africa, African Governments will require both stronger operational capacity – through their own health systems at the national level and through the African Centre for Disease Control at the continental level – and financing to cover the costs involved in containing disease outbreaks before they become pandemics,

1. *Welcomes* the progress report of the African Risk Capacity Agency on the establishment of its financial affiliate and on the drought insurance payments of \$25 million which it has triggered and transferred to States members of the African Union in the Sahel region ahead of other aid;

2. *Requests* the secretariat of the Agency, under the mandate set out in article 2 of the Agreement for the Establishment of the African Risk Capacity Agency, to help States members of the African Union to improve their capacities to plan and prepare for and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters, and to develop an outbreak and epidemic insurance product to complement the efforts of the African Centre for Disease Control;

3. *Requests* the African Union Commission, with the support of the secretariat of the Agency, to explore how the institutional and financial structure of the Agency could be replicated to attract private capital for the achievement of the goals outlined in Agenda 2063, in particular those pertaining to agricultural, infrastructure or other large-scale projects, while maintaining continental standards for socially responsible investment;

4. *Requests* development finance institutions and partners to channel their support for risk management in Africa through existing African-led institutions;

5. *Urges* all States members of the African Union to sign the Agreement for the Establishment of the African Risk Capacity Agency, in order to benefit from the Agency's risk management advisory services, tools and expertise;

6. *Calls upon* development partners and institutions to support the African Risk Capacity Agency, which plays an important role in Africa's natural disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

Annex III

Report of the Committee of Experts of the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Introduction

1. The meeting of the Committee of Experts of the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was held in Addis Ababa from 25 to 27 March 2015.

Opening of the meeting [Agenda item 1]

A. Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member States: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 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, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

3. The following regional economic communities were represented: Central African Economic and Monetary Community, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, East African Community, Economic

Community of Central African States, Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, Economic Community of West African States, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Southern African Development Community.

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Atomic Energy Agency, International Labour Organization, International Telecommunication Union, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Office for Project Services, United Nations Office to the African Union, United Nations Population Fund, World Bank, World Food Programme, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, World Meteorological Organization.

5. The following Member States of the United Nations were represented: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

6. Representatives of the following bodies were also present: African Development Bank, Central Bank of West African States, Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank, Business Foundation of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development, Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development, Pan-African Postal Union.

7. Observers were present from the following organizations: ActionAid International, Action Jeunesse pour le Développement, African Capacity-Building Foundation, African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD), African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD), Africa Leadership Forum (ALF), African Monitor, Association of African Universities, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Capacity and Development Services (CAPDEV), Centre for Democratic Development, Community Emergency Response Initiative (CERI), Development Initiatives Africa Hub, Development Research and Training, European Union, Fikir Leselam Development Organization, Freann Financial Services Limited, Geological Society of Africa, GK Kanki Foundation, Global Education, Global Fund, Indian Ocean Commission, Information Network Security Agency, Institute for Conscious Global Change, Institute of Development Studies, Integrated Seed Sector Development, International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Organization of la Francophonie, International Trade Union Confederation, League of Arab States, MED Confederation, Mzalendo Trust, National Bureau of Statistics, Nurses Across the Borders, Ohaha Family Foundation, ONE Campaign, Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa, Overseas Development Institute, Oxfam International, Plan International, RMA Capital, Save the Children, Statistics South Africa, Third World Network (TWN), Transparency International Cameroon, Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), University of Cape Town, University of Münster, University of Oxford, University of Waterloo, West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, World Vision International, World Wide Fund for Nature, World Wide Web Foundation.

B. Opening statements

8. The opening session was chaired by Mr. Bouh Sid'Ahmed, First Vice-Chair of the outgoing Bureau, Technical Adviser at the Ministry of Finance of Mauritania. Opening statements were made by Mr. Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union; Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA; and Mr. Abraham Tekeste, State Minister of Finance and Economic Development of Ethiopia.

9. In his statement, Mr. Maruping expressed thanks to representatives for their attendance and to the Government of Ethiopia for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all delegations. He noted the importance of the meeting in moving towards the finalization of the first 10 year plan of Africa's strategic structural transformation framework adopted by the Assembly of the African Union: the African Agenda 2063. He stressed that African countries were committed to the structural transformation of their economies according to their own designs and adhering to their own set of priorities to realize the aspiration of their citizenry via the adoption of Agenda 2063, adding that the process would require collective action to ensure proper planning at the national, regional and continental levels, the mobilization of all stakeholders, and sustainable financing plans.

10. He noted the relevance of the discussion on Agenda 2063 at a time when the world was preparing for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which was to be held in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July 2015. He urged the Committee to ensure that it prepared effectively and wisely to ensure that Africa's voice could be heard, heeded and fully appreciated during the second and third sessions for the drafting of the outcome document of the third Conference on Sustainable Development, to take place in April and June respectively, and during the Conference itself.

11. He indicated that implementation of Agenda 2063 would also require international finance, reform of the international trading system and technology, innovation and capacity development, while ensuring that external debt loads were sustainable. He also stressed the need for accurate statistics in order for African countries to plan, monitor and evaluate their structural transformation programmes.

12. He applauded the African leadership for establishing, in 2008, the tripartite free trade area covering the countries of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC). He considered that action an important milestone in the integration process and called upon other regional economic communities to emulate the initiative.

13. Mr. Hamdok expressed appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia for its contribution to the organization of the meeting and its support for the Economic Commission for Africa in that process. He highlighted the impressive growth that Ethiopia had achieved, which reflected the broader progress made across Africa over the last two decades. He identified favourable factors such as a rising middle class, stronger macroeconomic management and development planning and high commodity prices as key drivers of that growth. In spite of adverse events such as the Ebola crisis and the contraction in emerging markets, the medium-term outlook for Africa remained strong.

14. That said, however, growth on the continent had not translated into job creation; in most cases it had exacerbated inequalities, and generally had not been inclusive. African economies were still largely characterized by low-value economic activity, which impeded both participation in regional and global value chains and sustainable economic growth. Drawing attention to the importance of structural transformation for economic development and recognizing that free markets alone would not be sufficient in that process, he argued for the need for long-term development planning.

15. He stressed the importance of all stakeholders working towards tackling the challenges of implementing Agenda 2063, particularly through active participation in the forthcoming third International Conference on Financing for Development. He reminded participants that the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda had emerged from a collaborative region-wide effort. He hoped that actionable recommendations and specific strategies for the successful implementation of Agenda 2063 would emerge from the present meeting, particularly those encompassing mobilization initiatives, partnerships and compacts.

16. Mr. Tekeste, speaking on behalf of his country's federal authorities, welcomed participants to Ethiopia and to the meeting of the Committee of Experts. He

congratulated the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa for organizing the meeting, which allowed for reflection on important continental matters. He noted that Agenda 2063 set a new vision for the continent with important implications in the areas of development planning citizen mobilization and financing for development. He noted that African financing needs were considerable, especially for regional integration, intra-African trade and infrastructure. He emphasized the importance of Africa tapping into its own pool of wealth to finance its agendas, particularly Agenda 2063.

17. In that context, he proposed concerted efforts towards securing finance and more effective and inclusive ways of channelling funds to where they could be most effective and to currently hard-to-reach markets. That would require a comprehensive resource mobilization strategy targeting Africa's significant untapped resources that could cover critical investment needs in the areas of skills development, economic transformation and infrastructure development. In addition, it was necessary to integrate policy frameworks; specifically, Agenda 2063, into national and regional development plans, strategies and other initiatives, in order to ensure that African countries' goals were achieved and their aspirations were met.

18. Engagement with the private sector was pivotal for the success of Agenda 2063, as was ownership by all stakeholders, including young people, women and the diaspora. He called for action to ensure an enabling domestic environment for active public participation aligned with global sustainable development principles, including respect for human rights, inclusiveness and climate change adaptation and mitigation. He encouraged stakeholders to tap into international resources and ensure that Africa's voice was heard and strengthened in global policy development arenas, taking into account the specific needs and concerns of the continent. He stressed that deliberations at the present meeting would underpin the implementation of Agenda 2063 and be taken forward to the third International Conference on Financing for Development, which he urged participants to attend. He reiterated the firm commitment of the Government of Ethiopia to Agenda 2063.

C. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work [Agenda item 2]

19. The following countries were unanimously elected by the Committee to form the new Bureau:

Chair:	United Republic of Tanzania
First Vice-Chair:	Egypt
Second Vice-Chair:	Gabon
Third Vice-Chair:	South Africa
Rapporteur:	Guinea

20. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the Bureau and adoption of the agenda and programme of work
3. Overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa
4. Intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda
5. Data revolution
6. Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa
7. Presentation on the theme of the Conference: “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development”
8. Follow-up actions on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024
9. Statutory issues
10. Other matters
11. Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts and the draft resolutions
12. Closing of the meeting

D. Account of proceedings

Overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa [Agenda item 3]

Presentation

21. The representative of the secretariat provided an overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa, highlighting the main messages from document E/ECA/COE/34/3-AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/3(I). He said that Africa’s growth prospects remained strong (with growth of 5 per cent on average) and that the continent was making economic and social progress, despite regional and global challenges. The continent’s remarkable growth was underpinned by improved governance and macroeconomic management, a growing middle class and rising aggregate demand, diversified trade and investment ties with emerging partners, and improved regional integration and diversified trade partnerships within the continent. In the medium term, however, the continent was vulnerable to downside risks related to falling commodity prices and the weak economic recovery of developed countries.

22. In terms of social development, Africa was continuing to make progress in areas such as poverty reduction, gender parity, representation of women in parliament, and health; however, underlying fundamentals to support long-term growth and structural transformation, such as high-quality education, remained inadequate. Despite the continent’s robust economic performance over the past decade, strong growth had not been able to reduce widespread poverty and create decent jobs for the continent’s youthful population. If that continued, the continent would be unable to take full advantage of its demographic dividend and achieve its development potential during the following decade.

23. Africa’s sustainable development required an increased focus on structural transformation and inclusive growth, through productive capacity underpinned by value addition and beneficiation of commodities and natural resources. In that regard, the continent should adopt policies to improve its business environment, close its human and infrastructure gap, reduce its financing gap by taking advantage of domestic resource mobilization, and foster competitive sectors by shifting labour from low-productivity sectors to higher productivity sectors such as industry.

Discussion

24. In the ensuing discussion, participants said that growth in Africa had been characterized by high levels of disparities between countries, low productivity and few employment opportunities. More emphasis should be placed on improving the continent's economic and social infrastructure, with a view to encouraging private investors and tackling the impediments to private sector development and regional integration. There was also a need for social indicators to be developed, in particular those regarding the labour market, to enable the continent to produce accurate statistics on the labour market and to formulate adequate education policies, which were important because educational outcomes affected social inclusion and structural transformation. Participants agreed on the critical need to make the most of the continent's demographic dividend. They also discussed the accuracy of certain indicators and highlighted the need for the continent to set up an alert mechanism to anticipate crises and measure the impact on African economies (to be known as the Observatory of Economic Development), and the quality and sustainability of Africa's current growth and economic performance, with a view to identifying how to achieve the continent's full potential and ensure that growth was inclusive.

Recommendations

25. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. African countries should build on the progress made so far and continue establishing robust institutions that improve the business environment and promote economic governance and macro-economic management, with a view to increasing resilience to external shocks;
- b. African countries should develop strategies to close the human capital gap and should implement education policies that will ensure that young Africans are equipped with the skills that the labour market needs, in order to make the most of the demographic dividend and ensure equal opportunities for all Africans;
- c. An early-warning mechanism should be set up (to be known as the Observatory of Economic Development), to anticipate crises and assess their potential impact on African countries;
- d. African countries should improve their physical infrastructure, in particular in the transport and energy sectors, to reduce the continent's infra-

structure deficit, with a view to boosting intra-African trade, encouraging private investment and strengthening the processing sector, through effective structural transformation strategies.

Intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda [Agenda item 4]

Presentation

26. The representative of the secretariat gave a brief overview of the consultation process that led to the formulation of the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda and its adoption by the Assembly of the African Union at its session held in January 2014. He compared the priority areas of the common position with those included in the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals and showed that there was substantial convergence between the priorities identified in both documents.

27. He also compared the six essential elements for delivering on the sustainable development goals identified in the synthesis report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda with the priorities set forth in the common position, indicating that science and technology were not included among the six elements identified in the Secretary-General's report, and were only mentioned in the section entitled "Mobilizing the means to implement our agenda". He also noted that, in the section dealing with justice, the Secretary-General's report focused on the rebuilding of societies crises and conflicts, while the common position emphasized prevention and the root causes of conflict. He compared the common African position with the positions of various countries on the post-2015 development agenda.

28. He presented the road map proposed by the co-chairs of the intergovernmental negotiation on the post-2015 development agenda and the road map for the development of indicators and monitoring mechanisms for the sustainable development goals. An African group of negotiators on the post-2015 development agenda had been established to coordinate efforts and ensure that Africa spoke with one voice, and to forge alliances with other regions with the ultimate goal of ensuring that Africa's priorities were integrated into the post-2015 agenda.

29. He also underscored the need for national consultations on the development of indicators for the sustainable development goals, culminating in a continental consultation on the topic that reflected African priorities and that would inform the final discussions on the development of indicators for the sustainable development goals.

Discussion

30. In the ensuing discussion, various participants highlighted the link between the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063. They enquired about the elements from the common African position that had been reflected in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. They noted that it was also important to highlight the areas of divergence between the two instruments and to develop strategies to ensure that African negotiators spoke with one voice on the issues highlighted in the common African position. They underlined the need for more clarification and a deeper discussion on the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, including goals, targets and indicators, and called for the sharing of documentation relating to the process and the outcomes of those negotiations.

31. Other participants raised the issue of the development of indicators for the post-2015 development agenda and underscored the need to support countries in that regard. As part of the programme of action with regard to the indicators, a pan-African consultation on targets and indicators was scheduled to take place in May 2015 to ensure that they reflected Africa's key priorities.

Recommendations

32. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. The African Union Commission should keep countries informed about the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda;
- b. Member States should strengthen the capacity of African statisticians to formulate, apply and evaluate indicators. A regional mechanism should also be established for the development of indicators;
- c. Member States should conclude the sustainable development goals indicators urgently to meet the 2016 United Nations Statistical Commission deadline;

- d. Member States should take an active part in the formulation of targets and indicators for the sustainable development goals by organizing national consultations with stakeholders and participating in the continental consultation for the formulation of indicators that reflect Africa's priorities in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;
- e. The African group of negotiators should speak with one voice, coordinate its efforts and adopt a strategy to ensure that the common African position is reflected fully in the outcome document on the post-2015 development agenda;
- f. All member States should support the African negotiators on the post-2015 development agenda.

Data revolution [Agenda item 5]

Presentation

33. The representative of the secretariat made a presentation on the data revolution in Africa, structured around the following elements: update on the development of statistics in Africa; status of implementation of the African Charter on Statistics; status of implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa; update on the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics, to be based in Tunis, and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre, to be based in Yamoussoukro; and data revolution in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

34. He said that great strides had been made in many areas of statistics in Africa, but that several challenges remained, including the lack of political will, inefficient resource allocation and weak capacities of national statistical systems. The African Charter on Statistics had entered into force, following ratification by 16 countries since April 2014, with 22 countries yet to sign or ratify it. He underscored the need to continue calling upon all African countries to ratify the Charter and to align their national statistical laws and strategies for the development of statistics with the principles of the Charter.

35. He also highlighted the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa. Several working groups had made significant progress in various areas, including statistics on governance, peace and security, with the establishment of the City Group on Governance Statistics by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session; the 2010 round of the general

population and housing census; the 2011 round of the International Comparison Programme; the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics; the Yamoussoukro Declaration, adopted in February 2015 at the third Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, on the institutionalization of 2015–2024 as the decade of civil registration and vital statistics in Africa; and the establishment of an Africa Day of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics.

36. He informed the meeting about the progress made toward establishing the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre. The African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Governments of Tunisia and Côte d'Ivoire, was to fast-track the process by allocating equipment and financial resources for their operationalization.

37. He also highlighted the importance of a data revolution, which would enable Africa to produce quality data and timely indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063. The data revolution would broaden the scope of what might be termed the “data ecosystems” in African countries.

Discussion

38. In the ensuing discussion, participants re-emphasized the role of and the need for reliable and credible data, particularly in the context of Agenda 2063. They observed that progress had been made in the development of governance indicators, but that much remained to be done in the area of national accounts. They highlighted the importance of institutional and human capacity, data quality, data standardization and statistical policy harmonization across the continent, and stressed the importance of full implementation of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa. A data revolution was of relevance for the closing of data gaps and streamlining of data sources of varying degrees of quality and reliability. The data revolution would also allow for the harnessing of new technologies and partnerships to close data gaps and needs in an innovative manner. It was important, however, to ensure that the concept of a data revolution was fully understood by all concerned. A high-level conference would be held as part of the present joint meetings, from 27 to 29 March 2015, to reach a consensus on the definition of Africa's new data ecosystem.

39. One of the main challenges raised was the limited staffing for the handling of civil registration and vital statistics at both the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission. That challenge was being addressed by leveraging the knowledge of a core group of experts on civil registration and vital statistics, with support from the Government of South Africa. The low priority given to the generation, analysis and dissemination of statistics at the national level was also highlighted.

40. Participants discussed progress in the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre in the context of the harmonization and coordination of statistics and the strengthening of statistical capacity at the local, national, subregional and regional levels. The establishment of those institutions had been based on decisions adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its sessions held in January 2013 and January 2014, respectively. Participants noted that significant progress had been made toward operationalizing both the Institute and the Training Centre, and called for support for both institutions.

Recommendations

41. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. African countries that have not done so should fast-track the signing, ratification and domestication of the African Charter on Statistics;
- b. The Yamoussoukro Declaration on the institutionalization of 2015–2024 as the decade for repositioning civil registration and vital statistics in Africa's continental, regional and national development agenda should be implemented by countries;
- c. Individual countries should conduct the 2020 round of population censuses in a timely manner to ensure coherence and comparability with other countries;
- d. Countries should implement the African programme for the generation of governance, peace and security statistics, and the African Union Commission should ensure that it is integrated into the African Peer Review Mechanism;
- e. Countries should implement the Ouagadougou decision of 2004 on labour market measurements and the improvement of statistics on informal and private sector investment;

- f. The Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission should urgently strengthen their internal capacity to implement the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, and should be supported by partners in this endeavour;
- g. The African Union Commission should accelerate the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre and the strengthening of existing statistical training centres to ensure better coordination and harmonization of statistics in Africa;
- h. The Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Tunisia should allocate adequate resources and equipment for the establishment of the African Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre;
- i. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should lead the mobilization of resources for civil registration and vital statistics.

Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa [Agenda item 6]

Presentation

42. The representative of the secretariat outlined the current status of regional integration, focusing particularly on infrastructure development. He observed that tremendous efforts had been made by all the regional economic communities in the area of regional integration. Some regional economic communities had gone further and signed a charter on economic and monetary integration.

43. Despite the achievements, he stressed that the implementation of regional integration continued to face both traditional and emerging challenges, such as poor infrastructure, poor governance, concerns over sovereignty, overlapping memberships of regional economic communities, and emerging epidemics, such as Ebola, which had severely affected West African countries. In response to those challenges, African leaders had taken strong positions, including the decision taken in April 2013 in Port Louis at the sixth African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Regional Integration, which called upon the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to take the necessary steps to accelerate the regional integration agenda.

44. He also emphasized that infrastructure was key to accelerating regional integration and economic growth in Africa. In that respect, he stressed the importance of implementing regional and continental initiatives such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. He observed that there was a mismatch between infrastructure investment needs and the resources available. In view of that mismatch, he called upon African Governments to support and enhance the initiatives on innovative sources of financing, such as levying taxes on airline tickets, hotel bills and financial transactions.

Discussion

45. There was general agreement that regional integration would not be achieved without political will. The meeting heard that many decisions on regional integration had already been adopted by African leaders, but had not been implemented at the regional and national level. To address that challenge, the domestication of integration decisions agreed at both the regional and the continental level into national strategic plans was said to be critical. There were also calls for the implementation of regional integration initiatives to be accelerated, including the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. Furthermore, it was noted that attainment of the regional integration agenda was being negatively affected by the criteria set for assessing regional integration at both the regional and the continental level. Some of the targets that had been set for economic indicators were not realistic and needed to be revised.

46. Funding regional integration activities and programmes, particularly in infrastructure, remained a key challenge. Domestic resource mobilization would not meet all the infrastructure financing needs in Africa. Finding alternative sources for the financing of infrastructure development was described as crucial. South–South cooperation also had a key role to play in supporting the financing of infrastructure development. However, coordination remained a concern that needed to be addressed. In addition, a suggestion was made for African central banks to take an active role in mobilizing funds to finance infrastructure development. In an effort to mobilize more funds, it was reported that Guinea, the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme planned to organize a forum to map out resources to support attainment of the goals of the post-2015 development agenda.

47. Limited capacity for regional integration at the national level remained a challenge as far as the negotiation and implementation of regional and national initiatives on integration were concerned. It was reported that a number of countries were not fully aware of some of the decisions that had been taken at the continental and regional levels with regard to integration. The need was therefore highlighted for member States to enhance awareness of regional integration issues at the national level, including via education and training. Some countries had already introduced initiatives to raise citizens' awareness of the benefits of regional integration. In addition, the need for quality data for the effective monitoring and assessment of regional integration issues was emphasized. On that matter, participants underscored the important role of intensive dialogue among pan-African institutions, such as the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme in enhancing the collection and analysis of data.

Recommendations

48. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. Member States should enhance knowledge-sharing, including education and training, on regional integration issues with key stakeholders;
- b. Member States should support and enhance the initiatives on innovative sources of financing, as decided by the Assembly of the African Union at its January 2015 session;
- c. African central banks should take an active role in supporting Governments in the mobilization of resources for regional integration initiatives, particularly in infrastructure, using appropriate monetary and credit policies;
- d. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should strengthen the collection of data, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, business and industry structure, production and consumption, and the use of the International Comparison Programme, which provides information on consumption in Africa;
- e. Regional economic communities should revise the indicators used for assessing regional integration;
- f. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and member States should strengthen South–South cooperation and triangu-

lar cooperation in order to support African integration.

Presentation and discussion on the theme of the Conference: “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development” [Agenda item 7]

Presentation

49. Mr. Christopher Kachiza, Acting Director of Strategic Planning, African Union Commission, made presentations on the issues paper on the theme of the Conference, “Implementing Agenda 2063: planning, mobilizing and financing for development”; on the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063; and on the financing and domestic resource mobilization strategy.

50. His first presentation provided the background to the development of Agenda 2063. That process had been guided by the African Union Vision and the solemn declarations adopted by the Assembly of the African Union during the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Organization of African Unity. He defined Agenda 2063 as a strategic framework for the socioeconomic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years, which built on and sought to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development. It was a vision, a transformational framework and a plan, building on past frameworks to position the continent in the changing global context.

51. Agenda 2063 sought to harness the continent's competitive advantages to eradicate poverty, while establishing enduring peace and stability and empowering women and young people. The initiative had been developed through wide consultations with stakeholders in various sectors on the continent. Agenda 2063 comprised a framework document and its popular version, which had been adopted by the Assembly of the African Union in January 2015, together with its first 10-year implementation plan, which was being developed for presentation to policy organs in June 2015. The implementation plan was built on seven aspirations shaped by the consultations and the technical studies that had been conducted. There were goals and priority areas for each aspiration to facilitate integration into the existing frameworks. The framework consisted of six chapters,

ranging from a situation analysis to risks and mitigating strategies.

52. In the second presentation, he provided information on the progress made to date in the preparation of the draft 10-year plan, presented the structure and scope of the plan and the way forward for the completion of the draft. The plan was being developed pursuant to a directive from the African Union Executive Council. It consisted of priority areas, specific targets, indicative strategies, policy measures and the roles and responsibilities at the national, regional and continental levels to guide all stakeholders for the first 10 years of the implementation of Agenda 2063. The plan identified the key success factors and risks, and also mitigating strategies. It was built on the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity, accountability and transparency. Monitoring and evaluation constituted a key element of the plan, together with the imperative need to identify the skills required to implement the plan and the skills shortages that must be filled. Consultations with stakeholders had commenced, with a view to facilitating the adaptation of Agenda 2063 to national conditions and its implementation.

53. In the third presentation, he noted that the financing strategy took cognizance of ongoing and recently concluded domestic resource mobilization studies and initiatives. Those included the proposals of the High-level Panel on Alternative Sources of Funding for the African Union, led by the former President of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo; the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, led by the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki; the study on mobilizing domestic financial resources for implementing NEPAD national and regional programmes; and the African Union Commission's resource mobilization strategy.

54. The strategy recognized that the landscape for development finance had changed dramatically over the past decade, in terms of its actors, driving forces and financing instruments. Those instruments had evolved both institutionally and strategically from the traditional mechanisms of development cooperation, transforming development finance into a multipolar arena. The strategy had also prepared and categorized potential uses of funds and the corresponding resource mobilization and mediation vehicles, together with the actions to be taken to realize the specific domestic resource mobilization activity.

55. He outlined the challenges to unlocking financing, as well as the existing financing vehicles and institutional arrangements. Given their size and complexity, the financing needs of Agenda 2063 required Africa to consider the domestic and international financial markets as alternative sources of finance for most of its large-scale industrial projects, infrastructure projects and trade finance lines of credit.

56. Following those presentations, the representatives of Mauritania and the Economic Community of West African States presented subregional perspectives on Agenda 2063 for North and West Africa respectively. The representative of Mauritania noted that Agenda 2063 had been discussed at the previous meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the Economic Commission for Africa Subregional Office for North Africa, held in Rabat in March 2015. The Committee had underscored the strategic dimension of the 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and identified financing as a critical constraint on its implementation. It had suggested a number of measures to overcome that constraint, including reforms of national financial systems to enhance the capacity of member States to mobilize savings and diversification of the sources of financing for development with particular attention to domestic resource mobilization. The Committee had urged external partners to fulfil their official development assistance commitments and recommended the creation of a financing fund for Agenda 2063 and the development of innovative sources of financing.

57. The representative of the Economic Community of West African States outlined factors that would have a positive impact on the implementation of Agenda 2063, including: strong statistical and development planning systems at the national level; sound monitoring and evaluation mechanisms; and strong domestic resource mobilization capacities. He also underscored the importance of institutional settings at the national level, noting that countries required coordination at the ministerial level to ensure coherence among all ministries involved in the implementation of development plans and strategies.

Discussion

58. In the ensuing discussion, participants commended the presenter on the quality and comprehensiveness of his presentations. They noted that the framework document of Agenda 2063 had been adopted by the Assem-

bly of the African Union. The current deliberations were therefore not intended to revise the document but to provide inputs for the first 10-year implementation plan, which was being elaborated. Several issues relating to the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 were discussed, most of which revolved around the role of statistics, monitoring and evaluation, capacity-building, and alignment of the continental plan with national and regional development plans. Participants agreed that member States should own and lead the implementation of the Agenda, and that this would compel the regional economic communities to align their actions accordingly. They also mentioned the pertinence of empowering key stakeholders in the implementation of the Agenda. Other areas covered during the discussion included the role of youth and gender empowerment, research and development, communications, and risk mitigation.

59. Participants highlighted the importance of adopting balanced economic and social policies, and of ensuring that policies were flexible and dynamic to allow for adjustments, in the light of any new developments.

60. Participants underscored the importance of data and data analysis for development, and stressed that decisions on Agenda 2063 should be anchored on credible evidence. There was therefore a need to support initiatives to strengthen African statistical capacity. It was essential to establish baseline information on priority areas of Agenda 2063, as that would enable progress in its implementation to be measured in a credible manner. That required the articulation of relevant indicators through an inclusive process involving all major stakeholders. It was acknowledged that African countries differed in their level of social and economic development; Agenda 2063 therefore had to be implemented in a flexible manner. Countries had to adopt policies that were appropriate to their specificities, with a view to achieving the goals of Agenda 2063.

61. An in-depth discussion on monitoring and evaluating Agenda 2063 followed, in which participants emphasized the need for a clearly defined methodology to monitor and evaluate the continental plan. They underscored the necessity of periodically assessing the alignment of national and regional development strategies with Agenda 2063. In that regard, they expressed the view that member States and regional economic communities should include activities that would contribute to achieving the goals of Agenda 2063 in their development plans. In essence, the criteria to meas-

ure the alignment of Agenda 2063 with national and regional plans, as well as an accompanying monitoring framework, had to be elaborated. Participants stressed the need to be realistic in setting time frames for achieving the goals of Africa's development plans and cautioned against setting time frames that were unlikely to be met, thereby damaging the credibility of such plans. Some participants expressed the view that a time frame of 10 years was too long for an implementation plan, and others pointed out the need for effective coordination of all stakeholders at national and regional levels in the implementation of Agenda 2063.

62. Participants emphasized the need to critically review past and ongoing development initiatives in Africa, such as the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa, the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), among others, and to use lessons from those initiatives in preparing the implementation plan for Agenda 2063. That would help to avoid duplication of efforts and the waste of scarce resources. They noted that two of the fifty years of the Agenda had already elapsed and underscored the need to accelerate the preparation of the first 10-year implementation plan.

63. The importance of developing a communications strategy for Agenda 2063 was highlighted. Participants pointed out that the Agenda had to be internalized in member States, since member States were central to its implementation. That called for an awareness-raising campaign to mobilize national support, from the public and private sectors, for its implementation. Overall, a good communication plan was critical for ownership of Agenda 2063 at the national and regional levels.

64. Participants identified capacity-building by member States, regional economic communities and the African Union Commission as critical to the implementation of Agenda 2063. They also noted that the extent to which countries required capacity-building varied across the continent in the light of differences in countries' levels of social and economic development. Hence, a uniform approach to capacity-building was unlikely to be successful on the continent. Participants identified statistics, development planning and negotiations as critical areas where capacity-building was required in order to enhance existing skills on the continent. Weak institutional capacities and the lack of reliable statistics hindered countries from formulating sound and effective development plans and from tracking their progress

towards inclusive growth and economic transformation. In that regard, national statistics offices had to be strengthened to ensure their ability to generate timely, reliable and disaggregated statistics. Development planning skills were needed to ensure the sustainability of Agenda 2063, as the initiative would only be sustainable if results were locally owned and could be replicated and scaled up by member States. In terms of negotiating skills, member States and institutions tasked with planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating Agenda 2063 had to develop and strengthen their human and institutional capacities to better negotiate with partner institutions and Governments on matters relating to the continent's development agenda.

65. Overall, participants agreed that implementation of Agenda 2063 could be a challenging endeavour. To facilitate the process, member States had to play a leadership role, starting with the alignment of their medium-term and long-term national development planning frameworks with the Agenda. For some countries, that should be a relatively straightforward task, since the aspirations of the Agenda were similar to theirs. That might, however, pose a challenge to countries that lacked the capacity to undertake the alignment exercise. It also required them to adopt a comprehensive approach to development. To be effective, the domestication and alignment efforts should be extended to the district level, where the bulk of the population lived.

66. It was noted that the principle of subsidiarity would be applied in implementing Agenda 2063. Based on that principle, action would be taken by member States at the national level, by the regional economic communities at the subregional level, and by the African Union Commission at the continental level. Research and development were also identified as critical to the achievement of the objectives of Agenda 2063. Those objectives could only be achieved, however, if peace and security prevailed on the continent. In that regard, the flagship programme of Agenda 2063 that aimed to end armed conflicts by 2020 was commendable, especially as it focused on women and girls, who were particularly vulnerable to wars and conflicts.

67. Participants recognized the importance of the aspiration in Agenda 2063 that called for an Africa whose development was people-driven, one that relied on the potential of its people, particularly its young people and women, and one with well-cared-for children. They acknowledged that women's empowerment and gender equality were important dimensions of the Agenda, and

emphasized the need to ensure that women's organizations were consulted and the needs and priorities of women taken into account in the development of the 10-year action plan for the implementation of the Agenda. Those needs and priorities also had to be factored into the goals, priority areas, targets and indicators of the African structural transformation framework.

68. Given the long-term horizon of Agenda 2063, participants emphasized the need to pay special attention to young people and children in the 10-year action plan for its implementation, considering that harnessing Africa's demographic dividend was an important dimension of the Agenda.

69. Participants recognized that the ability to mobilize resources for the implementation of development plans varied among African countries. Regarding public financial management, they underscored the need to reduce leakages caused by inefficiency and to optimize the mobilization of resources. That could be achieved by improving transparency and accountability through appropriate budgetary standards and government procurement practices. Countries were encouraged to leverage partner support to complement their domestic resources. The important role of the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, was highlighted by participants, who also stressed the need to create an enabling environment for both local and foreign private sector activity. The lack of available and accessible credit, both short and long term, was noted as a constraint to private sector development in Africa. Pan-African financial institutions, central banks and international financial institutions could all play a role in addressing that constraint, including through mechanisms such as guaranteed funds and support for public-private partnerships.

70. Participants emphasized the role of central banks in financing development. While recognizing that the actions of central banks had been limited by national legislation in the past, they also recognized the relevance of extending the role of the central banks from that of merely ensuring price stability to that of promoting employment and growth. Similarly, Africa needed not only to create new financial institutions but also to strengthen the existing ones and to set up mechanisms for their coordination. Some participants expressed the view that central banks should engage in dialogue on monetary cooperation and coordinate financing for development with other African financial institutions. It was noted that huge illicit financial flows were leaving

the continent every year and that mechanisms should be put in place to limit such flows. The recovered funds should be directed to project financing.

71. Lastly, participants emphasized the crucial need for African countries to improve their domestic resource mobilization, including by expanding their tax base and improving their tax collection systems. They appreciated the focus on domestic resource mobilization and emphasized that all resources, whether mobilized internally or externally, should be allocated to projects and programmes covering the aspirations of Agenda 2063, including the empowerment of young people and women.

Recommendations

72. In the light of the discussions, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. The African Union Commission should ensure that the selection criteria for projects in the 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 are determined through an inclusive process and taking into account geographical balance. All stakeholders, including women's, young people's and children's organizations, should be involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of the action plan and have their specific needs reflected in the plan;
- b. The 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 should be disaggregated to highlight bankable projects at the continental, regional and national levels, and should include annual and medium-term implementation benchmarks;
- c. Expert meetings and ministerial committee meetings should be held to review the implementation and financing plans of the flagship projects prior to their submission to the Assembly of the African Union;
- d. The African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and member States should develop strategies to mitigate risks such as wars and conflicts that divert resources from development projects;
- e. The African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa should take the lead in evaluating past and existing development frameworks and should draw lessons from that exercise for the implementation of Agenda 2063;
- f. Member States and the regional economic communities should integrate Agenda 2063 into their

national and regional development plans respectively, and should report, on an annual or a biennial basis, on progress made in the implementation of the Agenda. In this regard, they should define outputs that would help in achieving the goals of the Agenda and recommend projects to be included in the 10-year plan for the implementation of the Agenda;

- g. The capacity of the African Union Commission should be strengthened to ensure effective coordination of the implementation of Agenda 2063;
- h. The African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with member States, should address identified capacity gaps;
- i. Member States and regional economic communities should accord more attention to the establishment of enablers for mobilizing and financing development in line with the principle of subsidiarity, specifically, measures to accelerate the following efforts need to be prioritized: trade facilitation; financial market deepening and broadening; the preparation of bankable projects; and the production and use of labour market statistics;
- j. The African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the member States, in partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, African stakeholders and external partners, should work on a strategy for financing, and mobilizing domestic resources for, Agenda 2063, and should implement the strategy expeditiously;
- k. The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should support the efforts of member States to strengthen their national development planning and management systems, which are essential for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063;
- l. The African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa should mobilize the resources needed to come up with and implement strategies to popularize and raise awareness of Agenda 2063 among member States, with a view to encouraging all national stakeholders to take ownership of the Agenda.

Follow-up actions to the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 [Agenda item 8]

Presentation

73. The representative of Zambia, as the Chair of the group of landlocked developing countries, made a statement about the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, which had been adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries held in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014.

74. He noted the special challenges associated with landlocked developing countries' lack of direct territorial access to the sea and their remoteness and isolation from world markets. He invited member States, international, regional and subregional organizations and other stakeholders to implement actions outlined in the Vienna Programme of Action in the following six priority areas: fundamental transit policy issues; infrastructure development and maintenance; international trade and trade facilitation; regional integration and cooperation; structural economic transformation; and means of implementation.

75. He called upon member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation. He reiterated the call, made in paragraph 75 of the Programme of Action, to regional economic commissions, including the Economic Commission for Africa, to mainstream agreed actions into their programmes of work, as appropriate and within their respective mandates, and to support landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

76. He also called upon the African Union Commission to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into its programme of work for Agenda 2063 with regard to infrastructure, the flagship projects and, in particular, the high-speed train project, to improve the connectivity of landlocked developing countries and their access to the sea in order to facilitate international trade and regional integration and cooperation.

77. Finally, he expressed confidence that member States, the African Union Commission and the Eco-

nomics Commission for Africa would act upon the call made to them in that regard and take the necessary actions in support of Africa's social and economic transformation as articulated in Agenda 2063.

Discussion

78. Participants commended Zambia on its statement on the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 and expressed their support for the initiative.

Recommendations

79. In the light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation:

The 10-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063 should incorporate the measures set out in the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries, in line with the following six priority areas:

1. Fundamental transit policy issues;
2. Infrastructure development and maintenance;
3. International trade and trade facilitation;
4. Regional integration and cooperation;
5. Structural economic transformation;
6. Means of implementation.

Statutory issues [Agenda item 9]

A. African Union Commission statutory issues

Presentation

80. The representative of the secretariat presented the statutory issues of the African Union, as detailed below.

Rules of procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration

81. He presented the rules of procedure of the Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration, pointing out that the Committee was one of 14 specialized technical committees established by the Executive Council

of the African Union. The committees were all organs of the African Union and as such they should operate according to the rules of procedure to be adopted by the Executive Council. The rules of procedure of the various committees consisted of 33 similar articles, with the exception of article 5, which related to their power and functions.

Progress report on the establishment of the African Union financial institutions and the study on the feasibility of a pan-African stock exchange

82. Recalling the provisions of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (also known as the Abuja Treaty) and the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishing the African Union financial institutions, he stressed the objective and activities to be carried out by the African Investment Bank, the African Monetary Fund, the African Central Bank and the pan-African stock exchange. He drew attention to the challenges faced and called upon member States to take appropriate measures with a view to speeding up the establishment of the institutions.

Briefing on the outcome document of the African Private Sector Forum

83. He described the objective of the African Private Sector Forum and the outcome of the seventh edition of the Forum, held from 3 to 5 December 2014 in Nairobi. At the Forum, participants had called upon the African Union Commission to create an innovative platform for public-private dialogue, which would build on public-private dialogue schemes already in place at the local, national and regional levels, as highlighted in the study on private sector dynamics in regional economic integration and free trade agreements, which was carried out by the African Union Commission and the European Union. Participants had also called upon African countries to design special policies to facilitate the access of small and medium enterprises to private equity investment facilities and to encourage the creation of compartments for small and medium enterprises in national and regional stock exchanges.

Preparation of the common African position on financing for development

84. He recalled that, as part of the preparations for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, the African Union Commission was drafting a common African position based on the perspective

paper of the African group of negotiators. The perspective paper emphasized that the Addis Ababa outcome document on financing for development should include significant financial and non-financial commitments to be mobilized from a variety of sources, as well as other forms of commitments to address, among other things, issues of infrastructure, industrial diversification, trade, economic transformation, rural development and agriculture, education, health, women and young people, children, debt cancellation and alleviation, technology facilitation mechanisms, capacity-building, repatriation of illicit financial flows, reform of global governance institutions for economy and finance, strengthening cooperation in the fields of taxation, volatility of commodity prices, exchange rates, and the data revolution, with a view to supporting the efforts of African countries to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Report of the meeting of the African Union Subcommittee of Directors General of Customs

85. He presented the outcome document of the sixth ordinary meeting of the African Union Subcommittee of Directors General of Customs, which had been held in Brazzaville on 25 and 26 September 2014. He emphasized the need for the Subcommittee to present its report to both ministers of trade and ministers of finance, given that customs departments in Africa had the dual role of collecting revenue and facilitating trade. The Subcommittee had made a number of recommendations concerning the institutional arrangements for the continental free trade area negotiations and the role of the Subcommittee therein; the interconnectivity of computerized customs clearance and information systems; integrity and ethics in customs administrations; and capacity-building in customs administrations for the continental free trade area and regional integration.

Report of the African Risk Capacity Agency

86. Lastly, he presented a report on the work of the African Risk Capacity Agency and the establishment of its financial affiliate, ARC Insurance Company Limited, capitalized at \$200 million. He emphasized that the serious drought in the Sahel had triggered payments totalling \$25 million in January 2015 from the Agency's insurance company to the Governments of Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal, to help them launch immediate relief operations. The responses funded by ARC Insurance Company Limited were already under way. For its part, the United Nations estimated that 50 per cent of the target set in the international appeal for the Sahel,

which was launched after the payouts, in the second week of February 2015, would be met by June 2015. Following requests from its 25 member States, ARC Insurance Company Limited would develop insurance products for floods, tropical cyclones, outbreaks of disease and epidemics, which should become available within two years.

Discussion

87. In the ensuing discussion, participants stressed the need for the rules of procedure of the Specialized Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration to be examined by legal experts from the ministries of justice of member States. Article 5, on the power and functions of the Committee, was amended. Other provisions were also amended and rephrased.

88. Participants noted that the issues raised had been well synthesized and they applauded the inclusion of new and emerging issues such as technology, innovation, capacity-building, and monitoring and evaluation of data. However, participants underscored the need for the document entitled “Financing for development: Africa’s perspectives” to be an ambitious one and called for Africa to be bold during the negotiations. The negotiation process would involve Africa negotiating within the Group of 77 and China prior to the second drafting session of the outcome document for the third International Conference on Financing for Development. Participants also noted that there were some recommendations that had emerged from the regional consultation on financing for development, which was held on 23 and 24 March 2015, that could be used to improve the document on Africa’s perspectives.

89. Participants suggested some issues that Africa should address during the negotiations, including the price volatility of natural resources; Africa’s participation in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development initiative on fighting international tax evasion and illicit financial flows, in order to improve tax collection in Africa; improving the quality of official development assistance; and climate financing. It was agreed that negotiations on double taxation agreements were being conducted to attract investors and should not be viewed as a drain on financial resources for African member States.

90. Participants took note of the report of the sixth ordinary meeting of the African Union Subcommittee

of Directors General of Customs and emphasized the need for adequate measures to guarantee the integrity and ethics of customs administrations. It was reiterated that the 2015 Africa Governance Day should be dedicated to that issue. They also took note of the report on the establishment of the African Union financial institutions and the study on the feasibility of a pan-African stock exchange.

91. The African Risk Capacity Agency was a cost-effective mechanism for channelling official development assistance, because it had reduced fragmentation with its singularity of purpose, avoided conditionality because compliance rules were set by its African membership, and ensured predictability thanks to pre-agreed, objective triggers for disbursement. Participants encouraged donors and African countries with means to support disaster risk management and African empowerment on the continent by channelling funds through the Agency, as an efficient African-owned institution. Recognizing the challenge of financing the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063, participants encouraged the African Union Commission and the secretariat of the African Risk Capacity Agency to explore how the Agency’s unique public–private partnership structure could be replicated to attract private capital and socially responsible investment for the continent’s development agenda, in particular for agricultural, infrastructure and other large-scale projects.

Recommendation

92. In the light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendation: Customs, central banks and statisticians should work jointly in order to provide a policy-based structure for the economy.

B. Economic Commission for Africa statutory issues

Presentation

93. The representative of the secretariat presented a number of statutory reports, including the following: the annual report on the work of the Commission, set out in document E/ECA/COE/34/1; the proposed programme budget for the period 2016–2017; the report on the outcomes of the survey which the Commission had carried out among its partners, in 2014; the report on the African Social Development Index; the review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Coun-

tries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action); the progress report on the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning; the report on United Nations system-wide support for the African Union and its NEPAD programme; the report on the outcome of the regional consultations on financing for development; and a note on the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

94. The 2015 annual report of the Commission highlighted the main programme activities and achievements of the Commission secretariat from April 2014 to March 2015, including the follow-up to the outcomes and decisions of the seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, held in Abuja in March 2014. During the year under review, the Economic Commission for Africa had made significant progress on several fronts. Among its achievements were the preparation and launch of several important reports and publications that had helped to shape policy in various areas, including the Economic Report on Africa.

95. Regarding the Commission's proposed programme budget for the period 2016–2017, the overall objective was to support efforts by African countries to achieve sustained and inclusive growth in order to accelerate the continent's structural transformation, in line with the priorities of NEPAD, the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda and Agenda 2063.

96. The 2014 survey of the Commission's partners had revealed a favourable perception by partners of the contribution made by the Commission in terms of its influence on policy in support of Africa's transformation agenda; the credibility and trust that it had demonstrated through the production of high-quality, evidence-based and good-fit policy research and knowledge delivery services; its accountability mechanisms and learning culture; and its operational effectiveness in delivering its knowledge production and capacity development services on time.

97. The strategy for implementing the work programme in 2016–2017 would continue to revolve around nine interdependent and complementary subprogrammes, corresponding to Africa's priorities for structural transformation. The modalities for implementation would include policy research and capacity-building; the collection of high-quality statistics to provide a sound basis

for policy formulation, implementation and the tracking of results and impacts; and enhanced partnerships with a wide range of partners.

98. As explained in the report on the African Social Development Index, the index was a tool developed by the Economic Commission for Africa to track progress on inclusiveness across the life cycle and different dimensions of development, at the request of member States. The index aimed to measure the impact of social policies on human exclusion in six areas: survival, health, education, employment, productive income, and decent life. It provided an important policy tool for member States to identify policy gaps and formulate appropriate measures for ensuring that every individual was part of the development process. The index had been piloted in five African countries which provided opportunities to test and further refine the tool, making it more responsive to the needs of member States. A policy mapping framework was being developed to help identify and assess the effectiveness of social policies in reducing human exclusion.

99. The review of the Istanbul Programme of Action observed that African least developed countries had made mixed progress towards the Programme's goals and targets and continued to be confronted with multiple and complex development challenges. The review confirmed the necessity for the development partners of those countries to accord them additional, enhanced, preferential, concessional and most favourable treatment in the areas of finance, technologies, know-how and other resources and differential and flexible treatment in respect of international commitments and obligations that were not commensurate with their capacity, needs and stage of development.

100. The progress report on the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning for the period from March 2014 to March 2015 highlighted the successful efforts by the Institute to build on its record of the preceding five years with regard to the number and diversity of its courses and the candidates admitted to those courses. The decentralized delivery of the Institute's programmes, which had begun in 2010, had been carried forward in 2014 and the range of its institutional partners had been enlarged in keeping with the strategy of ensuring local presence, visibility and impact across different parts of the African continent. In all, 37 short courses had been organized by the Institute in 2014, drawing a total of nearly 800 participants

from 51 member States spread across the five subregions of the African continent.

101. The short courses which the Institute had dispensed in 2014 had included a policy research, fellowship and dialogue portfolio within its overall pedagogical approach. The Institute's portfolio of postgraduate training courses had also been expanded to include new master's degree programmes in development planning, industrial policy and trade policy. The spirit of innovation and outreach that partly underpinned the Institute's 2010–2015 strategic plan had been carried further in different ways, including the hosting for the first time in the Institute's history of a short course in Arabic, in Cairo, in December 2014. In spite of the challenges which it faced, not least of which was the outbreak of the Ebola virus and a shortfall in the flow of extrabudgetary resources, the Institute had been able to meet its key programme objectives for 2014, posting a 100 per cent record of programme implementation.

102. The report on United Nations system-wide support for the African Union and its NEPAD programme focused on activities in support of the decisions of the Assembly of the African Union; direct technical assistance to the African Union and its NEPAD programme; and support coordinated through the nine clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of the United Nations agencies working in Africa (RCM-Africa), convened by the Economic Commission for Africa.

103. A regional consultation in preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development had been held on 23 and 24 March 2015. The consultation had taken place immediately before the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. Meeting participants comprised representatives of member States, civil society and the private sector, research institutions, think tanks and regional and multilateral financial institutions. The outcomes of the consultation would feed into the ongoing negotiations by the African group at the United Nations in New York in preparation for the third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015.

104. As discussed in the note prepared by the secretariat, the General Assembly had established the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July

2013 as the main United Nations platform dealing with sustainable development. The Forum provided political leadership and guidance; followed up and reviewed progress in implementing sustainable development commitments; addressed new and emerging challenges; and enhanced the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In that context, the Assembly had invited the United Nations regional commissions to contribute to the work of the Forum, including through annual regional meetings, involving other relevant regional entities, major groups and other relevant stakeholders. To that end, the Economic Commission for Africa and other regional actors, including the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, relevant United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, were called upon to organize an annual multi-stakeholder forum on sustainable development, to be referred to as the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. The Regional Forum would provide Africa's collective input to the annual meetings of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Discussion

105. In the ensuing discussion, participants commended the Commission on its achievements over the past year and the efforts that it had made in preparing a comprehensive programme budget for 2016–2017. They commended the focused activities conducted by the Economic Commission for Africa to advance the African agenda. They also noted with appreciation the quality of the Commission's knowledge products and their contribution in informing policy dialogue at the national level. They welcomed the country profile initiative, which could serve as an effective monitoring tool for Agenda 2063, the post-2015 development agenda and the economic transformation of the continent, and expressed interest in extending the publication of country profiles to other countries, suggesting that publication of those profiles should be aligned with the planning and budgeting cycles of member States. In that regard, they called on the Commission to further strengthen its collaboration with member States on data collection. The representative of Guinea commended the Commission in particular on its strong and active involvement in the response by member States to the Ebola crisis, and for its innovative initiatives to that end.

106. On the review of the Istanbul Programme of Action, participants reiterated the need to institutionalize the review process for least developed countries

and to ensure that it was properly mainstreamed in the Commission's programme of work and in member States' development plans and strategies. On the issue of landlocked developing countries, participants supported the statement made by Zambia as the current Chair of the group of landlocked developing countries concerning follow-up actions to the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024, and called upon member States to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies in order to ensure its effective implementation.

107. With regard to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, participants welcomed the significant progress registered in its work and expressed appreciation for the efforts deployed by its Governing Council and management to further the decentralization of the Institute's programme delivery.

108. On the issue of financing for development, participants emphasized the importance for Africa to have a strong, coordinated and coherent position and made clarifications on the two reports on financing for development – one from the Africa group and the other from the consultative meeting held on 23 and 24 March 2015 – and recalled that the Africa group report, which represented the African position, was a living document that provided the necessary space for negotiation in New York. The Africa group should maintain its position based on the content and scope of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, capture new and emerging issues, and identify obstacles and constraints in assessing progress in financing for development. They stressed that the section on illicit financial flows should include the provision that the money should be returned to the countries of origin without conditionalities.

109. Participants welcomed the establishment by the General Assembly of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the organization of the annual regional multi-stakeholder meetings on sustainable development, which would enable Africa to prepare a collective input to the annual meetings of the High-level Political Forum.

Recommendations

110. In the light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- a. The Economic Commission for Africa should support efforts to align national development planning to Agenda 2063 and organize seminars in various African countries on the domestication of Agenda 2063;
- b. The Economic Commission for Africa should reflect the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries in its programmes of work and ensure that Agenda 2063 takes into account the special needs of, and provides support to, landlocked and transit African countries;
- c. Member States should mainstream the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries in their development plans and strategies;
- d. Member States should endorse the draft document entitled “Financing for development: Africa's perspectives” as a living document, taking into account inputs from the Chair's summary of the proceedings of the regional consultations held in Addis Ababa on 23 and 24 March 2015.

Other matters [Agenda item 10]

111. No other matters were raised at the meeting.

Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the meeting of the Committee of Experts and the draft resolutions [Agenda item 11]

112. Under this agenda item, the Committee considered the draft report of its meeting (as contained in document E/ECA/COE/34/L-AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/Draft/Rpt(I), together with nine draft resolutions for consideration and adoption by the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

113. Several participants made comments and observations and proposed amendments to the report as well as to the draft resolutions. After extensive discussions on some of the resolutions, the Committee unanimously adopted the report and the draft resolutions as amended. The resolutions, as amended by the Commit-

tee, are attached to the present report for consideration and adoption by the Conference of Ministers.

Closing of the meeting [Agenda item 12]

114. Closing remarks were made by Mr. Maruping, Mr. Hamdok and Mr. Hamisi Mwinyimvua (the United Republic of Tanzania), Chair of the Bureau. They all expressed their gratitude to participants for their hard work, their contributions to the discussions during the meeting, and their commitment to the successful implementation of Agenda 2063. They also applauded the strong partnership between the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa, as evidenced by the successful organization of the meeting. Finally, they commended the experts for their professionalism in formulating recommendations on important issues, for consideration and possible approval by their ministers.

115. The Chair then declared the meeting closed.

