

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT, 2014

Economic and Social Council Official Records, 2014 Supplement No. 18



UNITED NATIONS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
CHAPTER I:	1
CHAPTER II:	2
CHAPTER III :	28
CHAPTER IV:	33
Annex I – Resolutions Adopted by the 7th Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.....	39
Annex II – Report of the Committee of the Experts of the Seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.....	53

Economic Commission for Africa

Annual Report covering the period from 27 March 2013 to 30 March 2014

Introduction

1. The present annual report was adopted unanimously by the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) at its forty-seventh session which was held as part of the seventh joint annual meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance in Abuja, Nigeria on 29 and 30 March 2014.

CHAPTER I

Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. The Commission, as part of its experts and ministerial segments, deliberated on the theme, “*Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa*” and other related policy issues relevant to Africa’s industrialization, including inclusive growth and job creation; innovation and technology transfer; and the role of the public and private sectors. At the end of its session, the Commission adopted a Ministerial policy statement as contained in Chapter IV of the present report.

3. Also as part of its experts and ministerial segments, the Commission discussed a number of other important issues of relevance for Africa’s development, which were on the agenda of its meetings, including the following: role of renewable energy in Africa’s industrialization and economic transformation; African regional integration index; new continent-wide initiative on gender equality and women’s empowerment; illicit financial flows; country profiles; biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2016–2017; green economy and structural transformation in Africa; agricultural transformation for an industrialized Africa; industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa; Post-2015 development agenda; postal financial services; productivity, competitiveness and industrialization; alternative sources of financing for the African Union; African risk capacity agency: sovereign disaster risk solutions. The Commission adopted a number of resolutions providing mandates to ECA and the AU Commission to undertake work in these areas (the full text of the resolutions are contained in annex I of the present report).

CHAPTER II

Work of the Commission since its Forty-sixth Session

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

4. 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 committee 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

I. Regular Programmes

A. Macroeconomic policy

5. The subprogramme aims to promote strong, inclusive and sustainable growth and development in Africa for job creation and poverty reduction, underpinned by good governance and stability. The work of the subprogramme is organized around four focus areas: first, forecasting macroeconomic and other trends; second, development strategy and planning; third, development financing and private sector development; and, fourth, institutions, illicit financial flows and public sector management.

6. In the area of forecasting trends, the Commission undertook qualitative research, organized high-level conferences and held a series of capacity-building activities during the period under review. The 2014 edition of the *Economic Report on Africa*, prepared jointly with the African Union Commission, aims to improve the design, implementation and monitoring of economic and social policies of member States. The report, which is on the theme “Dynamic industrial policy in Africa: innovative institutions, effective processes and flexible mechanisms”, examines the constraints and opportunities for industrialization in Africa and promotes an integrated development policy framework for industrial policy effectiveness.

7. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is in the process of developing a macroeconomic policy framework for Africa’s transformation. To strengthen the process, a brainstorming meeting was held on December 2013 with the overall objective of defining the underlying principles that will guide the study and development of the framework, in particular the key focus areas that would help to address the issue of how African countries could formulate, design and implement sound macroeconomic policies to promote employment generation and economic transformation.

8. ECA expanded its work in the area of renewal of planning during 2013. A major output in this area is the annual progress report on the Millennium Development Goals, which is produced in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The 2013 edition of the report considered the theme: “Food security in Africa: issues, challenges, and lessons”. The report highlighted progress toward many goals, targets and indicators of the Millennium Development Goals, in addition to the challenges around translating economic growth into decent jobs, improved service delivery and reduced inequalities. This joint output was presented at the twenty-first ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in May 2013 and also widely disseminated to member States, regional economic communities, civil society bodies and the private sector, as an information and

advocacy tool. In addition, as a member of the secretariat of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Commission has been at the forefront of activities related to the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and to the formulation of the African common position on that agenda. It continues to provide technical support and contribute to the global processes on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and the sustainable development goals.

9. To strengthen national capacities in development planning in Africa, ECA established and officially launched the African network of development planners, which was designed to foster peer-learning and knowledge-sharing at the Sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, in Abidjan in March 2013. In addition, the Commission is preparing case studies on lessons learned in planning, which will be complemented by online surveys on that issue in the other African countries and will draw on experiences from Africa, Latin America and East Asia. The findings of these country case studies will be presented at a side event at the 2014 Conference.

10. In the area of finance and private sector development, a number of research projects were mounted under the subprogramme, leading to publications which have enhanced the capacity of member States to promote private sector development and also to mobilize domestic and external resources for development. The publications provided policy advice and strategies on supporting private sector development and helped to identify strategies for financing development. In the area of development finance, the 2013 edition of the Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in Africa report was produced in collaboration with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It reviewed the delivery of commitments and the results achieved in four broad policy areas, namely: sustainable economic growth, investment in people, good governance, and financing for development. The Mutual Review represents one of the most effective instruments for the tracking of development efforts, assessment of performance and indication of priority actions for Africa and its partners, with a view to promoting the structural transformation of African economies.

11. As part of efforts to promote South-South cooperation, an economic forum and business tour to the Republic of Korea for African policymakers and private sector stakeholders was organized under the subprogramme, to enable participants to learn from that country's transformation experience. The event helped promote economic cooperation and the forging of business linkages between Africa and the Republic of Korea. Under this initiative, experiences and business information were shared, with a view to promoting exports, diversifying businesses and strengthening value chains through improved policy dialogue and the formation of public-private partnerships in the context of South-South cooperation. Several countries, including Kenya, South Africa and Uganda, have since sought to organize their own bilateral study tours, which should enhance the development of their private sector and strengthen financing mechanisms for development.

12. The eighth convocation of the African Economic Conference, organized jointly by ECA, the African Development Bank and UNDP, was held in Johannesburg in October 2013, on the theme of regional integration and trade. The Conference has become a major forum for policymakers, researchers and academics from across the world to gather together to discuss and share knowledge and ideas as a contribution to tackling the development challenges of Africa.

13. In the area of governance and public sector management, ECA continued to provide support to regional and subregional institutions in the implementation of the Regional Anti-Corruption Programme for Africa (2011–2016), through technical support, the production of technical policy

papers, peer learning and capacity development. ECA support was also instrumental in enhancing the capacity and technical knowledge of the members of the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption and strengthening collaboration with the Union, in facilitating the gradual revival of the African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities, and in strengthening the African anti-corruption networks and associations.

14. ECA also continued to backstop the work of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. Over the course of 2013, it helped prepare a background paper, country case studies and regional consultations. The country case studies explored the main drivers and dynamics of illicit financial flows, and also the main instruments and institutional settings designed to combat them. The report of High-level Panel also included specific information that underpinned pragmatic recommendations to national governments and other stakeholders on ways of addressing the impacts of illicit financial flows. Support was also provided to the High-level Panel in two regional consultations held during the year, the first for East and Southern Africa, in Lusaka in June 2013, and the second for West and Central Africa, in Accra in December 2013. As part of its outreach activities, the High-level Panel has also interacted with various governmental bodies, United Nations agencies and other international and regional organizations, think tanks and private sector bodies.

15. Key achievements during the year include enhanced collaboration among the various stakeholders, the active involvement of all segments of society, and the increased knowledge and capacity of African State agencies. The resulting improved understanding of the scale and dimensions of illicit financial flows from the continent is now influencing the national and regional policy discourse and legislation; as a result, existing national and regional instruments are being strengthened and new ones created. Furthermore, strong coalitions and partnerships are being established both within and outside the continent.

B. Regional integration and trade

16. Within the framework of its programme on regional integration and trade, ECA aims to promote effective regional cooperation and integration among member States, including regional approaches to tackling the challenges of trade, industry, agriculture and land.

17. Under this subprogramme, ECA continued to support efforts by Africa to establish a continental free trade area and a common market. Activities undertaken in this context covered key priorities of the integration agenda, in particular in the areas of industrialization, infrastructure (including transport and energy development), trade, investments, and food and agriculture, with special emphasis on the development of regional value chains. The Land Policy Initiative, which is a key component of interventions in the area of agriculture, also constituted an important dimension of the subprogramme's activities during the period. In 2013, the subprogramme registered a number of key accomplishments in various areas of its work. Some of the more notable results are highlighted below.

18. The sixth edition of the Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA VI) report aims to provide policy guidance to member States in implementing the regional integration agenda. ARIA VI, published jointly with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, builds on the momentum of decision 394(XVIII) adopted by the Assembly of the African Union in January 2012, on boosting intra-African trade and fast-tracking the establishment of a continental free trade area by 2017. The report explores aspects of the negotiations on the rules of origin and ancillary trade facilitation instruments designed to kick-start the continental common market. Other activities were carried out with the African Union Commission relating to implementation of the

action plan to boost intra-African trade and the continental free trade area; the harmonization and implementation of trade facilitation measures across the regional economic communities; support for the Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Regional Integration, held in Port Louis in April 2013; promotion of the Observatory on Regional Integration in Africa as a platform to keep member States and other stakeholders informed about the achievement of regional integration milestones; and development of the compendium of best practices on regional integration across the regional economic communities. ECA also supported the establishment on the African Knowledge for Development Networks platform of a community of practice, which is currently functioning actively (<http://knowledge.africa-devnet.org/>).

19. In the area of trade, ECA facilitated the emergence of a common African position on aid-for-trade issues, with its report *Building Trade Capacities for Africa's Transformation: a Critical Review of Aid for Trade*, launched at the fourth Global Review on Aid for Trade, held in Geneva in July 2013.

20. In partnership with the Trade Law Centre for Southern Africa, ECA held a session on trade facilitation and regional integration at the Trade and Development Symposium in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013. The recommendations from the symposium have been used to inform the work of the African Union Commission on trade facilitation in Africa. ECA also provided technical assistance to Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana and Mauritius in the area of agriculture and rural transformation and to Algeria and Morocco in that of trade agreements. Advisory services were also rendered to some member States to on how to strengthen their capacity to mainstream trade policies in national development strategies; and on the management and development of integrated water resources.

21. Other achievements under the subprogramme included support in drafting the agreement on the trans-African highway, in the elaboration of a road safety charter for Africa and in the regional preparations for the global review of the Almaty Programme of Action. ECA also contributed to the first Africa Transport Policy Forum, held in Dakar in December 2013, which led to several recommendations on the implementation of the road safety action plan. In addition, ECA contributed to the research for and final production of the African bioenergy policy framework and guidelines, which will be tabled for ratification at the July 2014 summit of the African Union.

C. Innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources

22. During the period under review, under subprogramme on innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources, ECA continued to support member States in their efforts to adopt development strategies to improve the management of mineral resources and to minimize environmental risks and ecological scarcities, promoting understanding of the green economy by member States and helping them to harness the potentials of science, new technologies and innovations and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

23. In the area of green economy and natural resources, ECA, jointly with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, prepared five subregional and one regional report highlighting Africa's sustainable development priorities, which informed the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals, held in Addis Ababa from 31 October to 5 November 2013. At the meeting, African ministers adopted an outcome document containing, among other items, an agreed set of twelve sustainable development goals to feed into the work of the High-level Committee of African Heads of State and Government on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

24. The period under review saw progress in the preparation of the fifth edition of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa, which is being produced jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNDP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the theme “Achieving sustainable development in Africa through inclusive green growth.” Six country case studies on inclusive green growth good practices were commissioned as part of the process of preparing the report. The compendium of good practices and the fifth edition of the report will contribute to informing the design and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes on inclusive green growth in Africa.

25. Other important achievements of the subprogramme include capacity-building support to policymakers to mainstream natural disaster risk reduction into national and regional development frameworks. In this regard, four national assessments (by Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria and Togo) and two subregional assessments (West Africa and Southern Africa) were carried out on the mainstreaming and implementation of disaster risk reduction. Workshops were organized to enhance the knowledge and skills of over 100 policymakers and practitioners from the two regional economic communities and their member States on the mainstreaming and implementation of disaster risk reduction.

26. Through its work on fostering technology and innovation for development, ECA provided policy support and technical assistance to Guinea, Seychelles, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe in the design, implementation and review of policies and plans in the field of information and communications technology. With ECA support, Seychelles completed the development of its cyber-security law, while the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe reviewed their national strategies and implementation plans relating to information and communications technology. Guinea commenced the implementation of its e-government strategy. ECA is also assisting the Government of Namibia in its efforts to collect and analyse statistics on information and communications technology in support of its policymaking process, using a toolkit developed by ECA.

27. In the area of policy research, ECA published a report on Africa’s innovation policy environment and completed an assessment of the challenges facing the continent in the transfer of publicly funded research and development outputs. ECA also completed its assessment of the implementation of information and communications technology policies in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gambia, Morocco and Mozambique and developed a manual on a set of e-government indicators as part of the system for assessing progress in information and communications technology.

28. To promote innovation among youth, ECA organized a second biomedical innovators’ school in Kenya, to expose students and researchers from nine African universities in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia to the emerging technologies in open source design and rapid prototyping and fabrication.

29. At the regional and subregional levels, ECA continued to provide support to the African Union Commission and its New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) programme and to the regional economic communities. In this regard, ECA coordinated the development of the convention on cyber-legislation, which is awaiting adoption by the Assembly of the African Union. It also provided support to the African Union Commission in organizing the Africa Internet Governance Forum.

30. Where the servicing of intergovernmental and inter-agency committees is concerned, ECA organized and serviced the third meeting of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology, held in Addis Ababa in March 2013, and provided substantive support to the Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council, held in Geneva in July 2013, including through the regional preparatory meeting for Africa, held in Dar es Salaam in March 2013.

31. Where new areas of work are concerned, a series of research studies was launched with a focus on methodologies for preparing country profiles and readiness studies on sexually transmitted infections; assessing the contribution of information and communications technology to Africa's recent economic growth; and assessing the development of open government in Africa.

32. In the area of climate change, ECA embarked on a pilot project in three countries (Ethiopia, the Gambia and Rwanda) aimed at strengthening and upgrading the meteorological and hydrological observation networks and information management systems of those countries. This will lead to the provision of comprehensive climate and related environmental information to policymakers, policy support organizations, and the public at large, in formats that meet the needs of each of these groups. In addition to supporting evidence-based decision making processes, ECA launched a study of the climate vulnerability of African infrastructure, aimed at assessing the impact of climate change in the seven major river basins of Africa, and supported analytical research to generate knowledge and information on groundwater and underground water dams in Burkina Faso, Mali, the Niger and Senegal. ECA also launched the climate science research project at the first African Climate Conference, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, to support multidisciplinary research to improve climate forecasting skills and reliability across temporal and spatial scales, improve observation systems and delivery and build capacity in climate science and communication to link climate knowledge with action.

33. Where climate adaptation and mitigation are concerned, assessments were undertaken of agriculture policies in Kenya, Malawi and Mali, in order to create a more robust agricultural innovation ecosystem, which is capable of producing next generation crop technologies for food security and meeting climate change and climate variability challenges.

34. In addition, ECA conducted case studies on loss and damage assessment in five African countries, namely, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kenya and Mozambique. The results of these studies contributed to the discussions on the loss and damage work programme of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at the nineteenth session of its Conference of the Parties, held in Warsaw in November 2013. The studies provided evidence of the extent to which households and communities in Africa are affected by the adverse effects of climate change and are able to cope with those effects. At the end of the negotiations at the nineteenth session, a work programme on loss and damage was approved under the Framework Convention process that will enable vulnerable countries and communities to access resources and technical support towards building resilience and addressing the impacts of climate change.

35. In support of informed decision-making, awareness and advocacy for climate change adaptation and mitigation in Africa, ECA held the third annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa on the theme "Africa on the rise: can the opportunities from climate change spring the continent to transformative development?" The conference was attended by more than 700 participants, including two former heads of State, policymakers, scientists, academics, farmers, representatives of women's groups, health practitioners and media workers. A total of 62 scientific presentations were made and 35 academic papers were submitted for review. The

conference provided a platform to review and discuss key issues in the negotiations, in order to fine-tune positions on various negotiations tracks, based on empirical analysis and evidence.

36. In a similar vein, ECA supported the African group of negotiators at the nineteenth session of the Conference of Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Two major events were led by ECA: first, the Africa Day event on the theme “Climate change and agriculture in Africa’s development” and, second, a high-level dialogue on science for development, tackling the question: “Can Africa sustain its transformational development without investing in climate science?” The dialogue contributed to raising awareness of increased support for the ClimDev-Africa programme and the importance of investment in climate science, data and information in Africa.

37. In the area of mineral resources development, ECA provided support to the African Union Commission in organizing the third ordinary session of the African Union Conference of the Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development, held in Maputo in December 2013, on the theme: “Leveraging the Africa Mining Vision for Africa’s renaissance towards broader ownership”. A major outcome of the Conference was the formal launch of the African Mineral Development Centre and the endorsement of its business plan and strategy.

38. The African Mineral Development Centre commenced its operations in 2013 and responded to several requests for assistance during the period under review. In particular, the Centre worked closely with UNDP to develop an mining and mineral policy for Lesotho that’s is compliant with the African Mining Vision and will feed into a draft green policy framework being developed by the Government. ECA also participated in the Responsible Mineral Development Initiative round table held in November 2013 in Maputo on the future of the extractive industries sector in Mozambique. As a follow-up to the recommendations of the round table, ECA, the African Mineral Development Centre and UNDP will be supporting the formulation of a business plan to scale up the implementation of the country’s vision for the extractive sector. Together with the African Union Commission, the Chamber of Mines of South Africa and Mining Indaba LLC, the conveners of the event, the African Mineral Development Centre co-organized a ministerial symposium at the 2014 session of Mining Indaba, held in Cape Town in February 2014. The symposium was part of the African Mining Vision day at Mining Indaba and provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the African Mining Vision at the Indaba, which was attended by 37 African government delegations, 10 non-African government delegations and representatives of 2,100 international companies from six continents.

D. Statistics

39. The objective of ECA work under this subprogramme is to improve national statistical data and information for informed policymaking and economic management. Accordingly, the Commission’s work during the reporting period was articulated around the following priorities: promoting, coordinating and advocating statistical activities in Africa; building a data hub at ECA for the provision of development data on Africa; implementing the standard international System of National Accounts in Africa; supporting statistical training programmes; supporting the development of the post-2015 development indicators; supporting the regional programme for population and housing censuses in line with internationally adopted cycles; improving the status of civil registration and vital statistics in Africa; and providing technical assistance in various areas of statistics.

40. The fifth edition of the *African Statistical Yearbook* and the *African Statistics Pocketbook*, jointly produced by ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, were published in 2013 as an authoritative source of statistical information on Africa, with improved

efficiency, effectiveness and timeliness. The joint data collection and publication initiative has proved to be highly efficient and has significantly reduced the data collection burden on countries and reduced duplication of efforts and inconsistencies among different organizations. The publication has been widely distributed in hard copies, CDs and flash disks to end users in Africa and libraries, and the on-line versions in African Development Bank databases have been visited by over 500,000 users, the majority of whom come from academic and research institutions.

41. In the area of population and housing censuses, the joint advocacy efforts of ECA, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Statistics South Africa resulted in increased participation by African countries in the 2010 round of population and housing censuses. Four countries, namely, Gabon, the Gambia, Mauritania and Senegal, conducted censuses in 2013, bringing to 40 the number of countries that have already carried out this exercise. An in-depth assessment of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses was undertaken in eight selected countries, with a view to identifying lessons learned. The findings have been widely disseminated to inform preparations for the 2020 round.

42. The implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics continued to be an important area of focus under the subprogramme during the reporting period. In response to a resolution by the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration to conduct comprehensive assessments of civil registration and vital statistics systems in their respective countries and to develop national plans of action for improvement of the systems, the regional secretariat for the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, in collaboration with the regional core group,¹ has trained a pool of 31 experts in civil registration and vital statistics to support countries in the assessment and planning exercise. These experts are now supporting countries in their assessments and guiding them in developing plans. To date, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique and Zambia have requested and benefited from the support of this pool in undertaking the assessment. More countries are now seeking support in this area. The secretariat intends continuously to mentor and expand the existing pool with the intention of meeting the capacity gap in civil registration and vital statistics on the continent.

43. Following the effective use in previous years of the series of African symposiums on statistical development to promote the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, the focus of the symposium has now shifted to civil registration and vital statistics. Accordingly, the ninth session of the African Symposium on Statistical Development, held in Gaborone in February 2014, took up the theme of promoting the use of civil registration and vital statistics in support of good governance in Africa. The outcome of the symposium will feed into the discussions and policy directives of the third Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, to be held in Abidjan in October 2014.

44. ECA continued to support the efforts of member States to produce timely statistics for measuring progress towards their development goals, with particular focus on the Millennium Development Goals. Awareness has also been raised among member States of the continuing policy work on the post-2015 development agenda at international and regional levels, to initiate work on development indicators and prepare a road map for meeting the statistical challenges in the context of the data revolution called for by the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Three groups have been formed, comprising member States which are now working on identifying

¹ The regional core group includes ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), UNFPA, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the INDEPTH Network, Statistics South Africa and Plan International.

indicators on the different subject areas in line with the common African position developed by the African Union Commission, ECA, the African Development Bank and UNDP.

45. With support from ECA, along with the African Development Bank and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), over 30 countries are at different stages in the development of their national strategies for the development of statistics. Several countries, including the Comoros, Nigeria and Togo, have made progress in the formulation of legal frameworks and the establishment of more autonomous statistical offices to improve compilation and dissemination, based solely on professional considerations. Other countries have increased government funding and donor support through basket funding, as is in Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. Some countries, including Burkina Faso, Madagascar and the Niger, have strengthened their national statistical training centres, through extensive collaboration with regional training centres. Most African countries have also improved coordination and achieved the integration of sectors in their national strategies. Other areas in which ECA provided support include the development of a regional strategy for the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts in line with the global strategy; and the implementation of the global programme on agricultural and rural statistics.

46. In order to improve the availability and use of geospatial information, ECA continued to develop numerous information and knowledge resources, applications and services. These include the guidelines of best practices for the acquisition, storage, maintenance and dissemination of fundamental geospatial datasets. The guidelines are intended to support knowledge-sharing through communities of practice. They will serve as a valuable tool for national mapping agencies and others, in providing the fundamental geospatial information. ECA also continued to work with other partners in implementing the African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF) programme, a unified geodetic reference frame for Africa that captures maps and other geo-information products in a seamless way. Activities undertaken in this regard include the commissioning of global positioning data centres concurrently to process and analyse data from AFREF; developing the methodologies for computing the AFREF transformation parameters; and working with the Ordnance Survey of the United Kingdom or Great Britain and Northern Ireland to finalize the rolling out of 30 new global navigation satellite system reference stations so as to increase the density of, and also to fill the gaps in, the AFREF network of receiving stations.

47. Recognizing that the low technology base in many African countries is one of the primary factors inhibiting the availability of statistical data for informed decision-making and policymaking, ECA has initiated an ambitious project on the use of mobile technology for data collection, using funding from the United Nations Development Account. This project will make use of the existing statistical structures in national statistical systems to test, adapt and, where necessary, develop new mobile data-collection systems. It seeks to strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems to produce reliable, comprehensive, timely and integrated statistics by making use of mobile devices. In the first phase, five pilot countries have been identified for the development of the methodologies. At the end of this first phase, an additional five pilot countries will be identified, to refine the methodology and roll-out procedures.

E. Capacity development

48. The main objective of ECA work under this subprogramme is to provide focused, coherent and integrated capacity-development support to build and strengthen the capabilities of member States, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the regional economic communities and other intergovernmental organizations to promote and achieve inclusive growth for sustainable development and transformation in the context of NEPAD and the

African Union's Agenda 2063. In meeting this objective, the subprogramme uses and operationalizes the findings from ECA research and normative work. Since June 2013, ECA work in this area has mainly focused on elements of capacity development as specified in various work programmes inherited from a wide range of other ECA divisions for the biennium, including the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union. Activities under the subprogramme during the year focused mainly on coordinating the United Nations system's support for the African Union and its NEPAD programme within the framework of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa), and also on support for implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism. Capacity-building assistance was also provided to member States and the regional economic communities in strengthening their policymaking capacity in various areas of development, using the mechanism of the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation.

49. A major priority of the subprogramme in 2013 was the development and finalization of a coherent and results-oriented capacity development strategy to support the development efforts of member States and their intergovernmental organizations at the regional and subregional levels. The strategy focuses on providing support in thematic areas where ECA has a comparative advantage, such as regional integration, trade, agriculture, infrastructure, economic governance, gender, social and economic issues and science and technology.

50. In line with the mandate conferred upon it by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in June 2012, ECA is contributing to the African Union's Agenda 2063 through the provision of technical and advisory services. It has provided technical inputs to the elaboration of the agenda, including the establishment of baselines, preparation of perspective studies and forecasts and provision of a platform to enable the United Nations system to contribute to the Agenda 2063 process through RCM-Africa.

51. As the secretariat of RCM-Africa, ECA strengthened coherence and coordination within the mechanism's clusters by developing operational guidelines, assisting in developing business plans, promoting inter-cluster and intra-cluster communications and backstopping the mandated meetings of the clusters.

52. 2013 presented many opportunities for the United Nations to enhance its support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme, both collectively and individually. In this regard, United Nations entities continued to improve the alignment of their programmes with those of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and the regional economic communities. Through RCM-Africa and its nine thematic clusters, interaction between United Nations agencies and organizations, on the one hand, and the institutions of the African Union (African Union Commission, NEPAD Agency, regional economic communities and the Pan-African Parliament), on the other, continued to be strengthened during the year. The implementation of the joint work programme of the African Union (the ten-year capacity-building programme) gathered momentum in 2012. The coordination of clusters has been strengthened with an increasing number of jointly implemented programmes leading to tangible results. Significant progress has also been made in the establishment and activities of the subregional coordination mechanisms, in particular those for North Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa and Central Africa, which have developed comprehensive business plans.

53. A significant event on the 2013 calendar was the fourteenth session of RCM-Africa, hosted by the African Union Commission in November 2013 on the theme of United Nations support for the African Union's Agenda 2063. The meeting also considered the preliminary report of the second triennial review of the ten-year capacity-building programme for the African Union; a

briefing on the regional development cooperation framework; and the operationalization of the Millennium Development Goals Africa Working Group and RCM-Africa, with a view to building synergies and integrating the work of both structures related to the Millennium Development Goals. Participants at the meeting requested the RCM-Africa secretariat to prepare a regional development assistance framework that responded to the goals and objectives of the African Union as expressed in its strategic plan, with clear roles and responsibilities for United Nations agencies within the context of RCM-Africa. A working group has been established to implement the recommendations of the fourteenth session and to prepare for the fifteenth session of RCM-Africa, to be held in Abuja during the Conference of Ministers in March 2014. The working group will make recommendations on the framework for the provision of United Nations support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme, including the African Union's Agenda 2063 and a successor programme to the ten-year capacity-building programme after 2015.

54. In addition to providing support to member States and the African Union in the implementation of the NEPAD priorities, ECA is also supporting the NEPAD Agency in the implementation of its strategic plan. In this regard, ECA worked closely with the Agency in preparing a landmark study, mandated by African Heads of State, on domestic resources mobilization in Africa. The study concludes that Africa has ample resources to finance its development and recommends a number of instruments driven by the private sector for domestic resource mobilization in Africa. These include the Africa Credit Guarantee Facility; special infrastructure funds, such as the Africa50 fund under the African Development Bank; strategic sovereign wealth and stabilization funds; sovereign-backed pension funds; new models of public-private partnerships; Africa-owned bond markets, including diaspora bonds and infrastructure bonds; the promotion of Africa's private equity bonds; the securitization of remittances; and regional stock markets.

55. In a similar vein, in collaboration with the NEPAD Agency, UNDP and the African Union, ECA is actively supporting the capacity-development mapping and scoping exercise being carried out by the regional economic communities. The purpose of the scoping and mapping initiative is to provide value-added 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. The scoping report was endorsed by the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-second ordinary session in January 2014.

56. Building on its successful work in support of the African Peer Review Mechanism, ECA continued to provide support to member States in various aspects of the process through country support missions and country review visits, including in the preparation of background documents, the drafting of country reports, the elaboration of national programmes of action, the mobilization of broader stakeholder participation and the fostering of peer learning among member countries of the Mechanism by identifying best practices in the Mechanism process and promoting their replication. The continued support provided by ECA to the African Peer Review Mechanism process has helped boost the capacity of member States to conduct the peer review and enhanced the capacity of a range of stakeholders to engage in the process.

57. Thanks to support from ECA, in 2013 the number of countries that have acceded to the Mechanism increased from 31 to 33, with the accession of Chad and Tunisia, while the number of countries that have undergone peer review increased to 17 – the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia were peer-reviewed during the year. Assistance was also provided to Djibouti, Lesotho and Mozambique in the harmonization of the African Peer Review Mechanism national plan of action

with their national development strategies and plans, while Senegal received support in the launch of the African Peer Review Mechanism process and the establishment of its national secretariat.

58. Also in support of the African Peer Review Mechanism and as part of the activities to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the African Union and tenth anniversary of the Mechanism itself, ECA collaborated with the Mechanism secretariat to produce an industry-standard video documentary on the Mechanism, showcasing Africa's governance achievements, challenges and prospects, as seen through the evolution of the African Peer Review Mechanism process since 2003. The film canvassed the opinions of ordinary Africans and explored the genesis and rationale of the Mechanism in order to broaden, deepen and promote a better understanding of the meaning and significance of its process. It also aimed to demonstrate that peer review is a comprehensive national dialogue that involves first and foremost the citizen, and not primarily a dialogue among African heads of State or government, or a selection of informed African experts, political leaders and senior government officials. The trailer of the documentary may be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZSRFGCAeys&>.

F. Technical cooperation

59. Technical cooperation remained an important supporting instrument for implementing the ECA core programme of work described in other sections of this report. Technical cooperation is the means by which ECA translates its research work into operational activities for development. Technical cooperation activities are carried out in support of the priorities of member States, with a particular focus on enhancing their capacity to formulate and implement policies and programmes for sustainable economic and social development and transformation, within the framework of the NEPAD programme and the African Union's Agenda 2063. Funding for ECA technical cooperation activities comes from the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation, the United Nations Development Account and extrabudgetary resources negotiated with bilateral and multilateral donors.

60. During the period under review, funding from the regular programme of technical cooperation was used to respond to requests for short-term assistance from several countries to provide guidance on policy options, advice on strengthening institutional frameworks, support in relation to policy debates on new and emerging issues, and training to support capacity development in addressing critical development challenges in a wide range of areas that fall within the ECA priorities, including industrialization, natural resources management, development planning, statistics and macroeconomic policy analysis. As part of its efforts to promote policy change and strengthen institutional capacities in these areas, in 2013 and 2014 to date, ECA has fielded over 150 advisory missions to 42 countries and eight regional economic communities and organized 68 workshops and seminars involving over 1,000 participants.

61. The services rendered contributed in particular to the enhancement of knowledge, skills, institutional capabilities and policymaking abilities as part of the capacity development process implemented by ECA, which transferred knowledge through its technical cooperation initiatives. Programme activities, although of a small-scale nature, often resulted in a multiplier effect as a result of the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources and the complementary use of United Nations Development Account resources to respond to larger-scale needs. The programme was an integral part of the collective efforts of ECA divisions and subregional offices coordinated by the Capacity Development Division. It should, therefore, be noted in this regard that the results achieved under the programme of technical cooperation contributed to the results reported under the regular programme of work of the various ECA subprogrammes.

A. Gender and women in development

62. Under this subprogramme, ECA aims to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of international and regional commitments.

63. During the period under review, significant progress was made in building and enhancing the capacity of member States to integrate gender concerns into policies and programmes, using the tools developed under the subprogramme. Those tools include the African gender and development index, which has been well received and widely used in the countries that have collected data; knowledge platforms, including the African Women's Rights Observatory and the e-Network of National Gender Machineries in Africa, providing an facility for member States to engage with one another through online discussion and to share information and best practices; the work on gender statistics, including time-use studies and support for statistical offices; guidelines on the collection and dissemination of gender statistics; the technical advisory services to member States, providing hands-on support and high-level expertise, especially in the use of the tools which the Division has developed for policy development; and the strengthening of existing and forging of new partnerships.

64. The work on gender statistics entailed a comprehensive review to assess the capacity of selected countries, namely, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Tunisia and Zambia, in collecting, analysing and reporting on gender statistics and sex-disaggregated data at the country level. This provided evidence for the current efforts to mainstream gender within sectoral ministries, as well as within the work of ECA. This will also inform the capacity-building programme for national statistical systems, to be undertaken in partnership with the ECA African Centre for Statistics.

65. As a follow-up to the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the subprogramme developed a strategy to assist member States to implement the seven strategic areas of focus² identified in the outcome of the eighth African Regional Conference on Women, held in Banjul in 2009. Based on responses to a questionnaire circulated to all member States, 31 of which responded significant progress has been made in five of the seven strategic focus areas, with more required in the other two – climate change and food security and financing for gender equality. The assessment report was presented to the Committee on Women in Development at its eighth session, which took place in Addis Ababa in November 2013. The Committee underscored and applauded the crucial role played by ECA as a one-stop shop for continent-wide statistics, and emphasized the need for the Commission to strengthen its production of age, gender and sex-disaggregated data, including time-use data, and to develop guidelines for the production of national gender profiles.

66. A study was undertaken jointly with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) during the reporting period to determine the social and economic costs of violence against women in Africa. The report uses a two-pronged approach: secondary research into violence against women in Africa and in-depth empirical research in seven selected countries, namely, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Liberia, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique and Uganda, to document such violence and estimate its social and economic costs. The report highlights the indicative social and economic costs of violence against women as ranging from 0.03 to 1.7 per cent of GDP in the selected countries. The report also suggests that violence against

² The 31 countries are: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

women, and in particular its most prevalent form of intimate partner violence, is persistent and pervasive in Africa. Not only is it a serious form of violation of women's rights, it also has social and economic costs for the victims themselves, the African economy and society as a whole. The report makes recommendations and provides a number of policy options and programmes for policy makers to address this growing problem in Africa.

67. The work on the development and implementation of the African gender and development index entered a second phase during the reporting period, with 14 additional country studies undertaken (Botswana, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Senegal, Togo and Zambia), the output of which were synthesized into a regional report. The report notes that systematic social and cultural barriers continue to limit the capacity of member States to put in place legislative, policy and institutional changes to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. It also highlights efforts by member States to start integrating the index into their national development planning processes. For example, the Gambia is using recommendations from its study on the African gender and development index to strengthen the work of the sectoral ministries on gender, while Malawi has used indicators from the index to contribute to the gender dimensions of its growth and development strategy. Zambia has included indicators from the index in its national monitoring and evaluation strategy. This brings to 27 the number of countries covered by the African gender and development index since its inception.³

68. In 2013, a report was prepared under the subprogramme on time-use surveys in Africa, providing an assessment and policy recommendations and measuring the status of implementation of time-use surveys in Africa since the adoption of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. The report discusses the extent to which time-use statistics have been used in estimating and understanding unpaid work and in informing the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of gender-responsive policies, and identifies the challenges encountered by countries in undertaking time-use surveys. It concludes that the time-use work pattern in African countries that have undertaken time-use surveys is highly gender-sensitive, with men tending to spend more time than women in market production, while women tend to spend more time than men on unpaid household production. The findings will be used in the 2014–2015 biennium to inform member States on the use of time-use studies and how to use them in their policymaking.

69. The women's human rights component of the subprogramme's work has continued to provide evidence to member States on the importance of addressing the rights of women. In this context, Zambia is currently developing a database on women involved in informal cross-border trade, to support the monitoring of violence against women. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has established a one-stop border trading post to reduce the risk of violence against women traders, which is planned for replication in other subregions. A study on the human rights of women, reviewing violence against women in informal cross-border trade in Africa, has been undertaken to build a knowledge base on the forms and magnitude of the violence faced by women in the course of their informal cross-border trading activities, and to highlight the policy options available to member States in combating this phenomenon.

70. The online discussion on strengthening advocacy in promoting the role of national gender machineries, held in 2013, renewed dialogue on the approaches taken to mainstream gender into national policies, including advocacy strategies to raise awareness and secure the buy-in of sectoral ministries. Several member States have indicated that they find the online discussion a useful forum

³ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda were covered in the first phase.

for sharing their experience and achievements to date and exploring the challenges that lie ahead in ensuring an effective strategy that will promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa. ECA plans to integrate the e-Network and the African Women's Rights Observatory into the solution exchange platform for Africa currently being developed to streamline outreach to member States and facilitate the sharing of information and best practices.

71. A report on the gender-related dimensions of climate change, produced jointly by the African Centre for Gender and Development and the African Climate Change Policy Centre, highlighted the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change on men, women, boys and girls as a result of disparity in the access to, ownership of and benefits from productive resources. The report proposed a series of gender-responsive measures to addressing climate change in Africa, underpinned by a human rights and multisectoral approach, including gender mainstreaming in national climate change policies, the harnessing of local knowledge in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and financing for climate change. The need for collaborative partnerships with the World Centre for Sustainable Development, launched in follow-up to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and with other key stakeholders was also underscored. The work in this area is helping to build a body of knowledge on gender and climate change.

72. During the year under review, technical advisory services were provided, upon request, to several departments of the Government of South Africa in the use of the African gender and development index, paving the way for the country to undertake the second phase of the index using its own resources. Similarly, the Government of Botswana received technical assistance in building and strengthening its capacity to integrate gender concerns into public finance and budget processes. Under the subprogramme technical support was also provided to the Government of Togo in integrating and aligning the African gender and development index with the country's growth and development strategy.

73. Significant results were also achieved in the area of capacity development in partnership with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), for mainstreaming gender in national development policies and programmes to promote gender equality. Over 20 middle-level and senior policymakers⁴ from national statistical offices and ministries of economic planning, employment, finance, gender and social affairs from 17 French-speaking African countries were equipped with the tools, methodologies, and skills to integrate gender into social and economic policymaking and in the public finance processes necessary to achieve inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.

74. During the eighth session of the Committee on Women and Development, held in November 2013 in Addis Ababa, member States indicated that the knowledge platform developed and maintained by ECA is useful in sharing best practices and learning from other member States. Under the subprogramme two electronic tools are maintained which are designed both to analyse the major existing challenges and to propose solutions relating to gaps in data availability and their use in member States. These are the African Women's Rights Observatory and the e-Network of National Gender Machineries in Africa.⁵ The subprogramme organized a capacity development workshop on the two electronic tools in July 2013, which was attended by representatives of gender

⁴ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda were covered in the first phase.

⁵ In all, 24 policymakers – 17 women and 7 men – attended, from Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia.

ministries from 22 countries. In their feedback, 85 per cent of the workshop participants commended the workshop on its quality and relevance and to their work.

B. Subregional activities for development

75. During the year under review, consistent with their mandate, the ECA subregional offices (for North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa) continued 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.

76. The subregional offices have worked towards this objective by strengthening partnership with the major regional economic communities in their respective subregions, including the Arab Maghreb Union, SADC, the East African Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).

77. During the period under review, the subregional offices continued to enhance the support that they provided to member States and regional economic communities in strengthening their capacity to formulate and implement harmonized macroeconomic and sectoral policies and programmes in the areas of trade, infrastructure, human capacity development, gender mainstreaming, agriculture and food security. To this end, they organized and serviced a range of meetings and workshops, including the annual session 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. The subregional offices also continued to operate as subregional nodes for data collection, knowledge management and networking to strengthen the outreach work of ECA.

78. The subregional offices also compiled and disseminated reports and studies on various economic and social issues, which were submitted to the intergovernmental committees of experts. In addition, they continued to enhance their collaboration 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 Development Goals. 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 the RCM-Africa, including implementation of the joint activities agreed upon by the thematic clusters at the subregional level.

79. During 2013, arrangements were completed for the launch and operationalization of the country profiles, new ECA flagship publications. A number of internal and external brainstorming meetings and consultations were held in 2013 to explore the main underpinnings that will guide preparation of the country profiles. An internal brainstorming meeting was convened in Rabat in November 2013 to define such issues as the objectives, proposed scope, content and structure, indicators and areas of focus; data template; periodicity and length; responsibilities of subregional

offices and relevant divisions; partnerships to be formed with member States and external organizations; resource requirements for the ECA country profiles; and country coverage over the coming biennium.

80. The country profiles will provide data, institutional and policy information, along with 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, policy makers, civil society representatives, analysts and investors from within and outside Africa. Profiles will be prepared at regional and continental levels (such as the *Economic Report on Africa*) with medium-term forecasts, risk analysis and improved periodicity (annual, biannual or quarterly).

81. While several other country profiles are currently in circulation, it is envisaged that the ECA country profiles will add value by providing timely policy analysis and forecasts from an African perspective, in addition to tracking forecasts by others on Africa 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. Following the Rabat meeting, a concept paper and template has been prepared as a new contribution by ECA and as part of the country profile consultation and validation process. These will be presented to the Committee of Experts of the Conference of Ministers at its meeting in Abuja in March 2014, in order to get the experts' feedback.

82. The following sections highlight some of the results achieved by each subregional office in the other areas of their work.

1. Subregional Office for North Africa

83. In order to help raise awareness on the economic and social development status of North Africa, and also to contribute to the debate on policy options and strategies that address the development challenges of the subregion, the Subregional Office for North Africa organized expert group meetings, workshops and advisory missions. In this process, the subregional office contributed to the formulation of policies by encouraging agreement among member States on the need to implement the key measures in the areas of interest for the subregion, which include social protection reforms, good governance, the agricultural strategy for 2030, climate change and food security, green economy, trade and regional integration, and economic structural diversification.

84. The subregional office carried out technical advisory missions to Algeria and Mauritania, in collaboration with United Nations country teams. In addition, it conducted a feasibility study on employment offices in Mauritania, at the behest of the Government. The study defined the status and the specific overall missions of employment agencies, and provided a coherent institutional and integrated legal framework for their effective establishment and operation, well adapted to the specificities of the Mauritanian labour market. In Algeria, the subregional office provided technical advice on social and economic governance to Notre Algérie Bâtie sur de Nouvelles Idées (NABNI), a coalition of Algerian civil society organizations, in preparation for Algeria's 2020 report.

85. In collaboration with intergovernmental organizations and the Arab Maghreb Union, the Subregional Office for North Africa held two important consultative meetings, on regional integration and on the theme of the eighth African Development Forum, "Governing and harnessing natural resources for Africa's development". It established and operationalized a consultative mechanism with all key regional actors involved in the integration process, whereby ideas were

exchanged, and priority areas for intervention identified and analysed, for the economic transformation of the Maghreb. In the specific area of climate change, the subregional office, in cooperation with the African Climate Policy Centre and the Arab Maghreb Union, contributed to the establishment of a subregional framework for action and cooperation, which will serve as a guiding tool for the elaboration of the climate change adaptation strategy for the Maghreb.

86. In addition, the subregional office collaborated with ECE in conducting an environmental performance review of Morocco, and facilitated collaboration between Mauritania, Morocco and the UNDP office in Nouakchott in assisting the Mauritanian Ministry of Planning in its efforts to build an integrated social account matrix.

87. The Subregional Office for North Africa also organized the North African Development Forum on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary, to debate the prospects for long-term development in Africa as a whole, and the subregion in particular; and to develop a strategic vision for North Africa on Agenda 2063.

88. The subregional office widened its network and strengthened its impact at the country level by contributing to the activities of the United Nations country team in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. In Tunisia, it prepared and mobilized the country officials, the United Nations country team and other key stakeholders for the drafting of the national United Nations development assistance framework for the period 2015–2019. This process helped identify and assess current United Nations system capacities (programmatic and non-programmatic), key needs in the country, and areas where the United Nations system can make an impact. In Morocco, the subregional office continues to work with the different United Nations thematic groups (youth, migration, gender, governance, the Millennium Development Goals and others).

89. At the subregional level, the Subregional Office for North Africa is part of the United Nations review of the International Conference on Population and Development programme of action (ICPD Beyond 2014), and is also working closely, within the Inter-Agency Steering Committee on ICPD Beyond 2014, with the UNFPA Regional Office for the Arab States, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the League of Arab States. In collaboration with the United Nations country team, it is assisting North African countries with the national assessment of the progress made in implementing the ICPD programme of action.

2. Subregional Office for West Africa

90. The Subregional Office for West Africa strengthened the relationships between West African intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies working at the regional level in West Africa, and also enhanced the capacity of ECOWAS and member States in harmonized data management, in support of ongoing regional integration efforts.

91. The subregional office has been instrumental in promoting the “Delivering as one” initiative. It facilitated close collaboration between itself and a number of United Nations agencies at the regional level in the context of the subregional consultation mechanism for the support of the United Nations system to the African Union and specifically to NEPAD. To that effect, a meeting was organized in Dakar in November 2013, the outcome of which was a road map established for the operationalization of the subregional consultation mechanism, including a set of development programmes which will be fed in the cooperation plan. Six thematic areas were identified:

governance, peace and security and humanitarian actions; economic integration and development of infrastructure; human development and gender; agriculture, food security, water and environment; and development of the private sector, industry and mines.

92. The subregional office enhanced the capacity of the national statistical systems of the ECOWAS subregion to compile and make available information on the countries' economic and social conditions and to monitor the regional integration process through the deployment of the Ecobase prototype database. The subregional office facilitated the training conducted on the use and maintenance of the Ecobase platform, thereby increasing the readiness level of ECOWAS in the areas of data-set maintenance and data analysis.

3. Subregional Office for Central Africa

93. In 2013, the Subregional Office for Central Africa produced four country profiles, on Cameroon, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.

94. During the reporting period, the subregional office also produced five reports for the twenty-ninth session of its Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, focused on Central Africa's economic state, the stakes and challenges of the green economy, progress in the use of information and communications technology for development, the implementation status of international development agendas, notably the Millennium Development Goals and NEPAD, and the subregional office's annual report. Based on the findings and recommendations of the subregional office, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts strongly recommended that member States should push for a broad-based structural transformation of their economies through the development of agro-industry, transport infrastructure, an improved business climate and open market access.

95. The subregional office produced its regular policy advisory report, *The Economies of Central Africa*, which emphasized the need for countries in the subregion to speed up their transition to green economies alongside their complete structural transformation. A report on the harmonization of laws in the area of information and communications technology related to cyber-security was also produced, reflecting the high compliance rate of the subregion with the African Union's draft legislation on the issue. A report focusing on the rationalization of market integration tools in CEMAC and ECCAS also featured on the publication list for the year, in addition to four editions of the subregional office's bilingual quarterly newsletter *Echos d'Afrique Centrale*, a synopsis of the operationalization of compensatory funds in Central Africa, and a brochure on gender education and the culture of peace in the subregion.

96. The major activity by the Subregional Office for Central Africa in 2013 in support of regional integration priorities included the organization of the third regional integration forum on the free movement of persons and right of establishment in Central Africa, held in Douala, Cameroon in October 2013. The ECA subregional office in Central Africa played an important role in the decision of Heads of State of all CEMAC countries to allow complete free movement of citizens across all countries within the zone from January 2014.

97. The Subregional Office for Central Africa provided advisory services to Gabon, in particular the country's national industry forum, in its undertaking to devise strategies for an "Emergent Gabon". It also played a crucial role in the institutional audit of the International Commission for the Congo-Oubangui-Sangha Basin.

98. Where intra-United Nations cooperation is concerned, the subregional office spearheaded the subregional coordination mechanism in support of the NEPAD programme in Central Africa,

which led to the implementation of a first common indicative programme from 2010 to 2012, and the adoption in 2013 of a second such programme, for implementation from 2013 to 2016.

4. Subregional Office for East Africa

99. The Subregional Office for East Africa produced country profiles for five pilot countries, namely, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Under this new workstream, it is planned to provide institutional and policy information, together with forecasts, policy and risk analysis and recommendations on potential destinations of investments in and outside Africa.

100. The subregional office provided advisory services to the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), on the development of tourism in Eastern Africa, by formulating a sustainable tourism master plan. The master plan, which was officially launched in Nairobi in December 2013, now informs the development of country-specific tourism strategies, tools, and policy analysis and data collection in selected member States.

101. The subregional office took steps to enhance the capacity of the central and local governments in Rwanda in the area of budget planning, by providing training to their relevant institutions and to a technical team from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning on gender-responsive budgeting, which included courses on the principles, processes, analysis and monitoring of such budgeting, the analysis of gender budget statements, and the mainstreaming of gender in donor support. In addition, the subregional office delivered training on the application of modern econometric and modelling techniques to 15 officials from the central banks of the five member States of the East African Community. The training was aimed at strengthening their macroeconomic forecasting and modelling skills and was of particular relevance, as the central banks in the countries of the East African Community will play a critical role in overseeing the macroeconomic convergence criteria that will frame the monetary union of the East African Community.

102. The subregional office held a workshop on the cross-border transaction and conditions of women, exposing the challenges that women traders face in accessing loans and other bank facilities to expand their businesses. Participants urged the different stakeholders concerned, in particular immigration, tax bodies, financial institutions and security organs, to collaborate in removing these challenges.

103. The subregional office launched the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) *Least Developed Countries Report 2013* in Kigali in November 2013. During the launch, a round-table discussion was also held on the linkages between investment, growth, employment and regional integration in the subregion. The round table brought together senior government economists, academics and representatives of the local and regional media. In addition, and in coordination with the ECA Regional Integration, Trade and Infrastructure Division, the subregional office reviewed and presented the COMESA reports on the maize and livestock value chains at a workshop held in April 2013 in Johannesburg.

104. The subregional office played a leadership role at the subregional level in the formulation of the business plan for the subregional coordination mechanism for Eastern and Southern Africa. Together with the Subregional Office for Southern Africa, the Subregional Office for East Africa spearheaded efforts by the regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations,

United Nations agencies and other development partners operating in Eastern and Southern Africa to identify opportunities to work together in a coordinated manner with a view to widening the scale of their operation and thereby maximizing their impact. The results of this two-year intensive facilitation and consultative process culminated in the adoption of the subregional coordination mechanism for Eastern and Southern Africa.

5. Subregional Office for Southern Africa

105. The Subregional Office for Southern Africa undertook a study on harnessing natural resources for sustainable development in Southern Africa, considering the opportunities and challenges in the tourism sector, which was reviewed at an expert meeting held in February 2014 in Port Louis, Mauritius. The report puts forward a number of policy recommendations for the advancement of the tourism sector in the SADC member States, including the need for harmonization of regulatory frameworks, quality standards, human resources development, infrastructure development and investment for the tourism sector, and marketing.

106. The subregional office convened an expert group meeting on policy harmonization and the implementation of the SADC Protocol on Trade, with a specific focus on intellectual property in the SADC region. The meeting, organized in collaboration with the SADC Secretariat and held in Gaborone in December 2013, reviewed and validated the findings of a study on opportunities and challenges in using intellectual property systems to strengthen regional cooperation through policy harmonization in the SADC region.

107. In collaboration with other stakeholders and partners, the subregional office continued to provide technical support and advisory services for the development of policy and legal framework, including for the minerals and mining policy of Lesotho, and, in collaboration with the African Centre for Statistics, provided advisory services to the Zambian Central Statistical Office in the form of a workshop on national gender statistics. The main objectives of the workshop were to familiarize programme officials with the fundamental requirements in the production of gender statistics and to build their capacity in carrying out assessments on progress in this field. The subregional office also conducted a workshop on strengthening intraregional agricultural trade in Southern Africa, in Benoni, South Africa in October 2013. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the COMESA Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa, SADC and the Africa Trade Policy Centre. Participants discussed issues, challenges and constraints faced by SADC countries in enhancing intraregional food and agricultural trade. It provided a forum at which stakeholders could make recommendations about how to remove impediments to agricultural trade, particularly non-tariff barriers, and to increase intraregional trade for growth, food security and poverty alleviation.

108. In collaboration with the SADC secretariat, the subregional office organized the SADC cyber-security awareness workshop, held in Lusaka in November 2013. The workshop provided a forum for reviewing the status of cyber-laws and existing structures set up to fight cyber-crime in the subregion.

109. In collaboration with the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, the subregional office organized a forum on promoting the African Peer Review Mechanism codes and standards on corporate governance in Southern Africa, in November 2013 in Johannesburg. Among other aims, this special event sought to review and take stock of the corporate governance status, regimes and environment in Southern African member States and to review the implementation of the adopted corporate governance instruments, frameworks and mechanisms in the subregion.

110. In conjunction with COMESA, the subregional office organized a workshop on strengthening inclusive growth in the East and Southern African region, in Gaborone in December 2013, which focused on identifying issues, challenges and constraints faced by COMESA countries in promoting sustainable growth which was broad-based across sectors and inclusive of larger segments of the labour force, especially the poor. Participants at the workshop brainstormed and made recommendations on the content, focus and approach of the COMESA inclusive growth strategy and of the forthcoming related study on the inclusive growth situational analysis in the region.

C. Development planning and administration

111. The year 2013 was very important in the history of IDEP for many reasons. It marked the year in which the Institute's interface with the overall programmatic strategy of ECA was carried to a new level that promised to revolutionize its operations for the benefit of its member States. In addition to the Institute's prescribed role as the entity responsible for ECA subprogramme 8, on development planning and administration matters, with effect from 1 March 2013, it was formally designated as the training arm of the Commission within the overall ambit of the 2012 ECA reform agenda. In this new, enhanced role, the Institute came to assume responsibility for all the Commission's training initiatives, combining these with its own existing initiatives, as mandated by the member States and the IDEP Governing Council. Close collaboration was also maintained by the Institute with the African Union Commission through various training activities carried out for the benefit of its member States and professional staff. Similarly, training activities that fell within the overarching programmatic orientation of the Institute were carried out on a tailor-made basis in collaboration with the African Development Bank and a number of beneficiary African countries.

112. Key milestones attained in 2013–2014 include 100 per cent programme implementation for the 2012–2013 biennium and a significant expansion in the number and diversity of training activities, including short-term courses and demand-driven tailor-made courses offered to member States. Furthermore, the Institute's complementary policy research and dialogue activities attained new levels of significance as attested by the high level of subscription and participation that they attracted.

113. During the year, a total of 37 short courses were organized by the Institute, both at its headquarters in Dakar and at other locations across Africa. This is the largest number of short courses ever organized by IDEP in any one year. The courses benefited a total of 758 mid-career and senior officials from 48 African countries representing all five subregions of the continent. The 758 officials who participated in the Institution's training courses represented 42 per cent of the 1,822 applications and nominations received and processed during the year, suggesting huge interest in the programmes of the Institute.

114. Furthermore, the participation of female officials in the training programmes of the Institute continued to receive close attention. During 2013, a total of 252 female officials were admitted to various short courses organized by the Institute. They represented 33 per cent of the trainees admitted for the year, a percentage which tallied roughly with the total number of applications received from female candidates for all the courses which the Institute announced in 2013. Almost all the officials admitted to the short courses were awarded full scholarships by the Institute to facilitate their participation.

115. The overwhelming majority of the officials who benefited from the courses – 98 per cent – were 50 years old or under, meaning that they would still have many years of a professional career

ahead of them to be able to apply the knowledge, skills, and aptitudes they acquired at IDEP to their work. As a result of IDEP training programmes, beneficiary countries were able to design new national planning institutional architectures; adopt new approaches, dimensions, and instruments of development planning; launch new initiatives in interministerial planning and policy coordination; carry out new programmes in the area of decentralized and local planning; and update the skills and knowledge of their officials.

116. Within the overall ambit of the Institute's mandate on development planning and administration, and as part of the effort to support the efforts of African countries to drive an agenda of structural transformation, during 2013 IDEP undertook a major overhaul of its training and capacity development programmes. It was aided in this effort by its formal designation from 1 March 2013 onwards as the official training arm of ECA. In this role, and taking a cue from the new structural transformation agenda of ECA, the Institute introduced a set of new short courses that were mostly delivered on a pan-African scale. As a result, in 2013 IDEP attained not just the most significant expansion in the number of short courses in its history but also the broadest diversity of themes registered to date. Underpinning all the courses, and providing them with the coherence and synergy needed to make them elements of a holistic programming schedule, was the desire to offer training in thematic and sectoral domains that responded to the imperatives of planning and development management in an emergent context of structural transformation. The key themes covered by the short courses included trade policy, trade negotiations, trade statistics, bankable aid for trade programming, regional cooperation and integration, agricultural policy, agricultural value chains and food security, social policy for development planners, industrial policy, statistical and data analyses, macroeconomic modelling, gender budgeting, gender-responsive economic policy management, development policy monitoring and evaluation, development planning, regional and physical planning, strategic planning, debt management, mining policy, mining contract negotiations, migration, diasporas and development, tools and techniques of economic analysis, and energy efficiency investment planning. All the courses were delivered in English and French, and on occasion, where officials from different linguistic backgrounds were brought together under the same roof, with simultaneous interpretation and real-time translation services.

117. During 2013, arrangements were completed for the launching of three new course components within the revamped IDEP masters degree programme: on development planning, industrial policy, and infrastructure development. IDEP is co-hosting the postgraduate degree programme on development planning with the Institute of National Planning in Cairo. The programme on industrial policy is being co-hosted with the University of Johannesburg, while the component on infrastructure development is being co-hosted with the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar. All the processes connected to course structure and duration, module development, course accreditation with the relevant authorities and the recruitment of course instructors were completed during 2013 and the stage was set for the official launching of the initiatives in 2014. Up to 25 officials are to be admitted into each of the courses in 2014. Along with the three masters degree programmes, advanced discussions were held during 2013 on new joint masters degrees in trade policy and development with the University of Nairobi and the University of Port Harcourt, energy policy with the University of Ibadan and Casablanca University, and mineral policy with the University of Johannesburg.

118. As in previous years, the IDEP monthly development seminars hosted at the Institute's headquarters in Dakar continued to serve as a key forum for lively debates on the development experiences and trajectories of the African continent. Each monthly development seminar attracted an average of 50 participants, and among some of the topics that were addressed and which attracted the greatest interest were the governance of development, the migration-development nexus, social policy in a development context, and new directions in engendering development. Within the ambit of the IDEP fellowship programme, a total of five fellows were hosted at the

Institute during 2013. They came from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal. The topics that they covered during the tenure of their fellowship included land reform in a post-conflict context, development monitoring and evaluation, and trade and investment policy.

119. During 2013 the Institute also developed an inventory of social protection and social policy practices among African countries. The project was launched at the behest of the African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Development, which requested the inventory at its 3rd session in November 2013. The inventory is designed to feed into the operationalization of the pan-African social policy framework. Similarly, a desk study was commissioned by the Institute to examine the place of gender in the national development plans that African countries have adopted in recent years. The study was carried out as a joint partnership between the Institute and UN-Women.

120. The significant growth in IDEP programmes and the expansion of the Institute's presence and reach occurred within the context of major investments that began in 2012 and were carried over into 2013 in the environment and infrastructure of learning that it offers to course participants. Today, IDEP boasts state-of-the-art training and research facilities, including new simultaneous interpretation equipment for multilingual sessions and interactive electronic teaching boards. The Institute's programme expansion and reach throughout 2013 were accompanied by an across-the-board revamping of course modules with a view to further improving the quality and relevance of courses. Partnerships were also accelerated by the Institute across the continent for the decentralized delivery of its programmes beyond its headquarters in Dakar.

121. While consolidating the achievements of 2013, the Institute is also pursuing new opportunities for extending its reach, depth, scale and presence, towards the goal of securing the place of the Institute over the long term as an apex institution in the overall project of African development. To this end, a new knowledge management dimension is being built into the work of the Institute and e-learning activities will be launched in 2014. As part of efforts to reposition the IDEP library, steps were taken during 2013 to begin to make the library's documentary resources available online. To date, 18,000 documents have been processed and put online, and the Library has also launched a course module on library and online research methods for officials admitted to various training and policy research programmes at the Institute. As part of the new initiatives, tracer studies of IDEP training alumni will be carried out and greater emphasis will be placed on creating post-training follow-up activities for those who pass through the programmes of the Institute at any point in time.

122. To underpin the enhanced mandate of the Institute following its designation as the training arm of ECA, and in view of the expanding programmatic links between IDEP, the African Union Commission and other partners, steps were taken in the course of 2013 to boost the Institute's human and financial resources. These took the form of an enhanced annual grant from the United Nations, which was reported to the Conference of Ministers in 2012 and which came into effect in January of that year; a special annual training allocation from ECA starting from 2013; the annual assessed contributions of member States; and extrabudgetary resources mobilized from various sources. In addition, staffing levels at IDEP were increased and greater investments made in technology.

D. Social development

123. During 2013-2014, sound progress was made under the social development subprogramme towards its objective of promoting inclusive and equitable sustainable human and social

development in line with internationally and regionally agreed commitments and frameworks. Work was successfully accomplished on social issues through policy research, the generation of knowledge products, training and capacity development, the provision of technical advisory services and the review of the implementation of internationally agreed commitments on social development.

124. Through the subprogramme's effective support for the implementation of the ICPD programme of action (ICPD Beyond 2014), considerable progress has been made by member States in implementing at least a policy, a programme, a strategy or a combination of the three instruments on population, youth, migration, gender, ageing and sexual, reproductive, and adolescent health. The ICPD Beyond 2014 regional review revealed that 52 countries that participated in the review have implemented national policies, programmes and strategies, explicitly addressing the interaction between population and sustainable development. Member States continued to call upon ECA to support them in developing strategies and reformulating their population policies.

125. During 2013, the subprogramme's work on youth continued to focus on supporting the implementation of the recommendations on the issue of youth employment, adopted by Assembly of the African Union at its seventeenth ordinary session, held in Malabo in June–July 2011.⁶ Under the subprogramme policy research was launched in selected countries on the issue of the creative economy as a development pathway for youth employment. The main recommendation emanating from the report was for ECA to establish a creative economy initiative in Africa, which would help countries collect data and share experiences that could be used for informed policymaking and decision-making. Cabo Verde has taken the lead in embracing creative activities and has requested technical assistance from ECA in developing the initiative further. The subprogramme has prioritized the issue of high youth unemployment in Africa through a number of analytical studies, projects and technical support to member States. It provided technical assistance to the Government of Senegal, in developing a national action plan on youth employment. Further requests have come from the 35 member States which attended the experts meeting of the Committee on Human and Social Development. Owing to resource constraints, responses to the requests will be taken up on a first-come, first-served basis, starting with Malawi, Uganda and Togo.

126. The subprogramme has hosted young African professionals as interns and research assistants to undertake research and acquire skills in social development. The young African professionals are currently working on employment, cost of hunger, social protection, and urbanization issues.

127. In the area of international migration, technical support has been provided under the subprogramme to the Global Forum on Migration and Development processes, through policy research and the drafting of a statement as an input to the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development.

128. African countries need continuously to invest in human capital. In this regard, the joint initiative of the African Union Commission, the World Food Programme and ECA on the cost of hunger in Africa has been used to engage stakeholders in addressing child nutrition as a priority for the continent. The methodological basis adopted in the studies carried out under this initiative could be applied across a range of poverty correlates, to provide a better understanding of the consequences of conditions such as illiteracy and unemployment on the intergenerational transfer of poverty. Studies have been completed in Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda and are under way

⁶ The decision adopted by the Heads of State undertook to reduce youth unemployment by 2 per cent over a period of five years from 2011.

in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi and Rwanda. ECA will support the African Renewed Initiative on Stunting Elimination (ARISE) proposed by the African Union Commission as a mechanism to help member States eliminate stunting.

129. Consultations were organized under the subprogramme with experts and stakeholders working on urbanization in Africa, to guide work by the Commission and to determine its niche in this area. The resulting recommendations are designed to support the statistical, social and economic dimensions of urbanization and identify the policy gaps in that domain. The role of ECA in bridging statistical and knowledge gaps is critical, especially at the regional level. This activity will bring coherence and ensure that urbanization issues are adequately mainstreamed in ECA social development policy activities.

130. Under the subprogramme, and in collaboration with IDEP, senior policymakers from member States are being trained, and a technical tool – the Africa social development index – developed, to respond to the challenges of exclusion and inequities in access to social services in member States. The index will provide member States with an effective and practical mechanism for informing social development policy.

CHAPTER III

Issues arising from the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, including the Intergovernmental Committees of Experts of the Subregional Offices

131. 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 ECA subregional offices, which were held over the course of 2013 and in 2014 to date. It highlights the key issues and recommendations from the meetings of the subsidiary bodies which need to be brought to the attention of the Commission for action or information. The chapter also includes a preview of meetings that were planned but had not taken place at the time of finalization of this report.

132. 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 new ECA programme orientation. Accordingly, the intergovernmental machinery of ECA 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.

133. Organs dealing with overall development issues

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

(a) The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides legislative mandate and policy guidance to the Commission, considers and endorses the work programme of the ECA secretariat, serves as a forum for articulating the position of Africa on development issues on the agenda of the United Nations, and decides on the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary. The Conference meets on an annual basis. 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 to achieve greater coherence in articulating Africa's position on key development issues.

(b) The Committee of Experts meets prior to the Conference and provides technical support to the Conference. The Bureau of the Commission includes a representative from each of the five subregions of the continent, namely, Central Africa, Eastern Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa and. It consists of a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur elected on a subregional basis.

134. Intergovernmental committees of experts of the ECA subregional offices:

(a) The five intergovernmental committees of experts of the five subregional offices of ECA 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 the respective subregional offices and make recommendations on issues concerning economic and social development in their respective subregions and on 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.

135. Functional and sectoral subsidiary organs of the Commission:

(a) 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.

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

Meetings held during the period under review

136. The new intergovernmental structure took effect in January 2014. The subsidiary bodies that met in 2013 did so in their old configuration, while those that met in 2014 met in the new configuration. The main outcomes of those meetings are summarized below. A preview is also included of the meeting that was planned but had not taken place at the time the present annual report was prepared.

Eighth Meeting of the Committee on Women and Development

137. The eighth meeting of the Committee on Women and Development was organized and held in Addis Ababa in November 2013 on the theme “Africa in the post-2015 era: achieving gender equality for the continent’s transformative development.” The meeting considered and discussed several topics related to gender equality and women’s empowerment, including the common African position on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 and gender; a progress report on implementation of the seven strategic focus areas of the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+15); gender and climate change; and the African gender and development index. The Committee also considered and provided guidance on the ongoing policy research work of the ECA African Centre for Gender and Social Development. Some of the key recommendations are highlighted below:

(a) ECA was requested to facilitate and support member States in harmonizing the gender dimensions of, and to promote convergence between, current and forthcoming reviews and regional processes, including Beijing+15 and the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, and the current consultations on the common African position on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

(b) The Committee underscored the need to place more emphasis on producing sex-disaggregated data, including time-use data for different development sectors, in order to inform policies and programmes and to encourage evidence-based research on gender issues;

(c) To facilitate implementation of the legal instruments addressing gender equality and women’s empowerment, ECA was urged to support the capacity-building initiatives of national

gender machineries to use the gender tools developed by the Commission and to ensure that all member States benefit from the programmes on gender;

(d) ECA was requested to develop a programme that will support the work of national gender machineries in the area of financing for gender equality and women's empowerment and to build strategic partnerships with ministries of finance and development planning.

1. Twenty-ninth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for North Africa

138. The twenty-ninth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for North Africa was held in March 2014 in Rabat on the theme "Industrialization for sustainable and inclusive development in North Africa". The experts at the meeting formulated major recommendations on policies and strategies to tackle current and emerging challenges, including the need for better economic and social governance; the conditions for more sustainable and inclusive growth; the deepening of regional integration, particularly through the development of regional value chains to accelerate the diversification and transformation of the economies of the subregion; and the need for the extensive reform of social transfers to ensure the sustainability of public finance and more effective and equitable social policies.

139. The meeting focused primarily on the economic aspects of structural transformation, calling for the development of a more diversified industrial sector and the transformation of the productive structures to generate added value and create stable and decent jobs.

140. The discussions during the round table on developing regional value chains to accelerate the diversification and transformation of North African economies suggested ways of responding to these issues and to the challenge of integrating North Africa into global and regional value chains. To accelerate industrialization in the region, the meeting called for the improvement and strengthening of the business environment in general and the institutional mechanisms responsible for promoting the integrating the countries of the subregion into the regional and global value chains.

141. Other subjects raised and discussed included the long-term vision for Africa to the year 2063, the medium-term perspective under the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, and the establishment of sustainable development goals. On the issue of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, the experts stressed the importance of learning lessons from the Millennium Development Goals in defining development priorities for the subregion. They stressed the need for countries to ensure that indicators were measurable and that qualitative indicators were taken into consideration.

142. The Committee reaffirmed the central and crucial role of statistics and data in all development processes and welcomed the production of the country profiles by ECA.

143. The parliamentary documentation, other supportive documents and events organized during the meeting helped to raise awareness of the status of economic and social development in the subregion and highlighted the major developmental challenges affecting North Africa.

2. Twenty-seventh meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for West Africa

144. The twenty-seventh meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for West Africa, which was held in March 2014 in Yamoussoukro, on the theme “Industrialization for a food secure West Africa”, provided an opportunity for the discussion of policy measures to address the challenges facing the subregion, in particular those relating to industrialization and its link with food security. At the meeting experts emphasised the urgent need for the subregion to use its huge agricultural, mineral and energy potential to accelerate growth and development in accordance with the vision formulated by the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS Vision 2020. They observed that the untapped potential to create more value across the value chains of natural resources represented an important component of development that the subregion should include in the overall strategy for development.

145. Back-to-back with the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, an ad hoc meeting was held to review and discuss progress on the implementation of macroeconomic policies and institutional convergence in West Africa, particularly as it relates to the implementation of the single currency in the subregion. Experts at that ad hoc meeting agreed on the need to undertake deeper analysis and studies to determine the extent to which the convergence criteria were reflected in the national macroeconomic policy of the countries of the subregion. A special round table was also organized to provide an opportunity for experts, researchers and other participants to share experiences and exchange views on the challenges of measuring development effectiveness in the subregion.

3. Thirtieth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Central Africa

146. The thirtieth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Central Africa was held in N’Djamena in March 2014, on the theme “Industrialization and upgrading of companies for the transition to a green economy in Central Africa”. The meeting drew over 60 participants from member States, the ECCAS secretariat, subregional institutions and members of the United Nations country team in Chad. Participants at the meeting discussed the following topics, based on the documents prepared for the meeting by the Subregional Office for Central Africa: the report on the work of the subregional office in 2013, including the status of implementation of the multi-year programme; the progress report on the implementation of regional and international agendas, including the Millennium Development Goals and NEPAD; and the introduction of subregional and country profiles.

147. The experts welcomed the newly introduced regional and country profiles in the context of the ECA reforms as important decision-support tools for economic policymaking in the subregion. The Committee recommended that the issue of financing the industrialization and upgrading of companies should be discussed during the 2014 Conference of Ministers and that guidance should be provided on mainstreaming the green economy in industrial development strategies. The Committee called on ECCAS to step up its efforts to promote regional integration through tangible actions benefiting the citizens of the community and requested ECA to improve its interaction with the member States of the subregion through regular visits to exchange ideas on emerging issues.

4. Eighteenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Eastern Africa

148. The eighteenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Eastern Africa was held in Kinshasa in February 2014 and was organized by the ECA Subregional Office for Eastern Africa in collaboration with the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, under the theme “National champions, foreign direct investment and structural transformation in

Eastern Africa”. It was attended by more than 200 participants from all 14 member States of the subregion, the regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations, members of the diplomatic corps, civil society and private sector representatives. In addition, three ad hoc expert group meetings and a round-table dinner were organized on the margins of the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, at which major relevant publications were reviewed with a view to raising awareness, deepening understanding, sharing knowledge and adopting focused and practicable recommendations on selected topical issues. Experts at the meeting considered and discussed several important reports, including the issues paper on the theme of the meeting; a report on the key macroeconomic and social developments in Eastern Africa; the annual report of ECA activities in Eastern Africa; and a paper on the theme of the 2014 Conference of Ministers. Highlights of the deliberations at the meeting and the recommendations adopted are outlined below.

149. The Committee recognized the importance of foreign direct investment for the development of Africa, but noted that the development outcomes arising from the growth driven by such investment were not sufficient to trigger structural transformation and broad-based development in the subregion. They pointed out that the failure of the market to create jobs posed a particularly difficult problem, given the combination of an extremely high level of informality in the economies of the subregion and the ever increasing influx of young people into the job market.

150. Looking forward, it was recognized that companies that may be described as “national champions” – in other words, leading public or private firms that could compete on national, regional and international markets – if properly enabled, could play an important role in promoting job-creating growth. Experts further noted that there were some good examples – albeit still few in number – of national champions on the continent, notable among which were Ethiopian Airlines, Gecamines and the Equity Bank of Kenya. At the same time, they observed that, to trigger structural transformation, it was crucial to increase the number of such national champions across the entire subregion. They also emphasized that the subregion and the continent as a whole needed what they termed an “Afro-capitalist revolution”, to unleash its entrepreneurship potential.

151. Experts also argued that, to promote the development and maturity of national champions, policy interventions should be centred on the following five areas: first, the development of industrial and trade policies, supported by a local content policy; second, enabling markets by sustaining policy reforms and improving the business environment; third, leveraging investment from emerging markets; fourth, promoting development planning, strengthening institutions and closing capacity gaps; and, fifth, modernizing and improving soft and hard infrastructure, including finance, trade and transport facilitation.

152. Lastly, the Committee highlighted the need to improve the business climate as a prerequisite for fostering national champions by ensuring political stability and a stable macroeconomic environment for sustained economic growth; to improve access to credit for local investors; and to foster private-public partnerships, thus boosting the role of the private sector.

153. The Committee agreed that its nineteenth meeting should be held in Madagascar in 2015, on the theme “Harnessing the blue economy for the development of Eastern Africa”.

5. Twentieth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa

154. The twentieth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts meeting for Southern Africa was organized by the Subregional Office for Southern Africa, in close collaboration with the Government of Zambia, and held in March 2014 in Livingstone, Zambia. The meeting was held under the theme “Making natural resources work for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Southern Africa”. A total of 64 participants attended the meeting, drawn from member States of the subregion, the SADC and COMESA secretariats; the African Union Mission to the Southern Africa Region; the African Capacity-Building Foundation; and United Nations agencies. The meeting was held back-to-back with an ad hoc expert group meeting that reviewed and validated a draft non-recurrent publication prepared by the subregional office and entitled “Regional integration: making natural resources work for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Southern Africa.”

155. Participants at the meeting discussed key policy issues related to mineral, land, water, forestry and fishery resources management and development, focusing on how Southern Africa could use the exploitation of those resources to drive social and economic transformation, tackle unemployment and promote inclusive growth and broad-based development in the subregion. The Committee reviewed and endorsed the recommendations contained in the three parliamentary reports submitted by the subregional office, namely a report on economic and social conditions in Southern Africa; a report on the work of ECA in Southern Africa over the biennium 2012–2013; and a progress report on the implementation of regional and international agendas and other special initiatives in Southern Africa, with a special focus on the governance of natural resources.

156. The Committee agreed on a number of recommendations addressing the issues of policy reforms to achieve macroeconomic convergence targets; the addition of value to natural resources, manufacturing and job creation; the governance of natural resources; income inequality; and capacity-building to meet social development goals. In particular, member States were urged to prioritize and invest in natural resource-based industries with predictable markets as a catalyst for inclusive growth, and to establish sovereign wealth funds that would help ensure intergenerational equity and cushion their economies from volatility in commodity prices. In the area of governance, the Committee called for the accelerated harmonization and implementation of agreed international, regional and national governance frameworks; and, where policymaking was concerned, member States were encouraged to refocus their national policies and expenditures on measures to reduce poverty and inequality.

CHAPTER IV

Ministerial Statement adopted by the 7th Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Conference of

African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

157. We, African ministers of finance, planning and economic development, meeting in Abuja on 29 and 30 March 2014 for the seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance,

158. Welcoming the presence and participation of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Mr. GoodluckEbele Jonathan, the President of the Republic of Liberia, Her Excellency Dr. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the former President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Jan Eliason, ministers of trade and industry, the governors of our national and regional central banks, and other high-level dignitaries and special guests,

Therefore declare:

159. We deliberated on the theme, “Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa”, a subject that has gained momentum owing to the renewed recognition of its potential, role and importance in accelerating and sustaining Africa’s growth and emergence. We debated the theme with the shared conviction that industrialization is one of the most viable paths to employment-generating growth and development, and a core prerequisite for the structural transformation of the continent. Our discussions built on the key messages that emanated from the sixth Joint Annual Meetings, which were held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, in March 2013.

160. We note that, although Africa’s growth rate slowed from 5.7 per cent in 2012 to an estimated 4.0 per cent in 2013, it is still almost twice as high as the global average. We also note with satisfaction that the growth success recorded in 2013 applied both to natural resource-rich and less resource-rich countries. We applaud this track record of success despite existing challenges and reaffirm our commitment to the pursuit of reforms needed to consolidate and sustain this growth momentum. It is encouraging to observe that some of the growth was underpinned by the successful application by several African countries of sound industrial policy and planning, thereby rekindling a much welcomed continent-wide interest in industrialization as the key to sustaining and boosting growth, among other benefits.

161. We also acknowledge that, in spite of the average growth rate of 5 per cent achieved over the past decade, our countries have had some difficulties in making growth fully inclusive and in reaping maximum productivity gains. As a result, overall factor productivity has been lackluster, unemployment – especially among young people – remains rampant, and inequalities are worsening. Poverty remains an enduring concern and a source of continuing worry to us.

162. We recognize the imperative of overcoming the various shortcomings of our current growth experience by taking immediate and appropriate action to promote inclusive and equitable development that will propel Africa towards structural transformation. To this end, redressing the continent’s continued overreliance on the exploitation of raw materials, with limited value addition, is of critical importance. The urgency of doing so is underscored by the fact that the current commodity-based growth trajectory has not proved capable of generating jobs at a rate sufficient to bring people into gainful and productive employment on a large scale.

163. We salute the efforts that have already been made by African Governments to increase the domestic processing of agricultural and mineral raw materials, nurture upstream and downstream linkages, foster national and regional value chains, revive local manufacturing activities, improve the policy environment to encourage domestic and foreign investment in manufacturing, and promote the competitiveness of national economies. In encouraging the further acceleration of these efforts, we note with satisfaction that the various comprehensive industrial development strategies and frameworks that Governments have launched over the last year are premised on a shared commitment to ensuring that the industrial sector serves as a key driver of the national and continental transformation agenda.

164. We applaud the wisdom of our leaders in proposing Agenda 2063 to guide continental transformation for the next fifty years and achieve a paradigm shift away from short-term approaches and scenarios. We commend the strong emphasis in the process of framing Agenda 2063 placed on the central role that industrialization must play in ensuring that our continent is able to achieve its aspirations for a structural transformation that boosts our economies, empowers our citizens and advances African integration.

165. We commit ourselves to working closely with our counterparts responsible for industrial policies and with other relevant line ministries in our countries, with a view to forging an integrated approach within the governmental system to overcome the various constraints that remain in the way of our efforts to unleash the full potential of Africa as a key industrial hub. To this end, we will address the problem of securing long-term financing for investing in manufacturing, including by reviving development banking and recalibrating financial markets to make them more supportive of Africa's industrialization efforts. We will also encourage the inflow of quality foreign direct investment, which contributes to the expansion of domestic production, the diversification of exports, the transfer of technology, the upgrading of local skills, the development of local innovation, and the deepening of economic linkages.

166. We will continue to work to sustain a supportive macroeconomic policy environment that will help to nurture the industrial sector. We will play our part in ensuring that policies relating to trade and trade facilitation, investment, energy, infrastructure development, logistics and supply chain management, science, technology, education and industry are more closely aligned. We will also provide policy incentives that will ensure that industrial investments serve the social policy goals and aspirations of our countries, including the empowerment of women. In this respect, we salute the new continent-wide initiative on gender equality and women's empowerment and encourage the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to expedite its effective implementation. All of these actions will ensure better outcomes as we move towards the goal of an inclusive structural transformation.

167. We also urge that much greater attention be given to expanding and strengthening local entrepreneurship, removing the various structural obstacles to redressing Africa's infrastructural deficits, and accelerating the efforts that have been made to date to remove practices that increase transaction costs to the detriment of industrial development. In particular, we call on the relevant arms of our Governments to encourage the development of female entrepreneurship as a credible strategy for inclusive growth. In the same vein, we call for a better leveraging of opportunities for youth entrepreneurship as part of a deliberate strategy to ensure that Africa's youthfulness is translated into a full dividend.

168. We believe that there is an urgent need to create jobs for the growing labour force, particularly for young people and other vulnerable groups. We deplore the fact that a significant share of the labour force is engaged in vulnerable employment – which is often characterized by low productivity – mostly in the informal or traditional sectors of the economy. In order to increase

employment, we commit ourselves to working with our counterparts, nationally, regionally and continentally, to drive the efforts that are needed in order to increase the productivity and growth rate of the agricultural, manufacturing and modern services sectors in support of transformative outcomes.

169. We are encouraged by the fact that Africa's labour force is increasingly educated and healthy and hence likely to be productive, given the right government policies and interventions. Therefore, in order to accelerate employment growth, large sectors with high employment elasticity need to constitute the main engine of growth. Initiatives and policies that will support public universities in moving towards subjects based on science, technology and innovation are crucial to a more flexible and dynamic labour market. Well-designed policies and incentives for internship programmes can boost skills and competences and increase the chances of young people finding decent jobs. Given the importance of the informal sector, systems and courses for the development of technical and vocational skills must also take into account the specific needs of that sector.

170. We call on the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to work closely together to ensure a better interface between the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the Africa Mining Vision, the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the Social Policy Framework for Africa, the Continental Free Trade Area, Boosting Intra-African Trade and other related continental policy standards, frameworks and strategies, to ensure that they complement and reinforce one another in pursuit of the common goal of inclusive continental transformation. The funding of these initiatives will require the creative use of our own resources as a means of ensuring greater ownership of our development agenda.

171. We underline the urgency of combined national, regional and continental efforts to redress all aspects of Africa's infrastructure deficits in order to make it possible to strengthen the viability and competitiveness of local industrial enterprises, which are essential to the building of modern and dynamic economies. We also welcome the proposed Africa 50 Fund as an additional innovative financial solution, designed to accelerate the expansion of the continent's infrastructure stock.

172. We commend current initiatives to identify and promote industrial growth poles that serve national, regional, continental and global markets. We urge that every effort be made to ensure that these poles do not ultimately become enclaves. Instead, they should be interfaced with and mainstreamed into the rest of our economies through multiple linkages and value chains that can ensure that they feed into a job-creating and infrastructure development momentum. We also encourage the alignment of the continent's growth poles and industrial corridor strategies with the regional integration agenda, anchored on comparative advantages and specializations.

173. We reaffirm that the goal of making growth inclusive and sustainable requires a clear vision, committed leadership, coherent strategies and long-term planning frameworks. It also calls for robust institutions and accountable governance structures to enable optimal interaction between State and non-State actors, most notably the private sector.

174. We acknowledge that the quest for the structural transformation of Africa requires a wholesale rethinking of the design and management of industrial policy that is anchored on a clear division of labour among the relevant agencies within an integrated policy framework and a comprehensive action plan that encompasses targets and milestones. It also calls for a better understanding of the opportunities for building competitive lead firms, nurturing national champions, enhancing local and regional value chains and economic linkages, and tapping the

growing opportunities offered by domestic and regional markets. Furthermore, we support the resurgence of interest in exploring opportunities to deepen South–South cooperation because of the benefits that it could have for Africa’s industrial transformation.

175. We further underscore the need to build political coalitions, as well as the importance of intersectoral coordination and regulatory effectiveness to ensure policy consistency, coherence and continuity in favour of industrialization. In addition, effective public–private dialogue and partnerships will be key in driving industrial policies. While the private sector needs government support to address market failures, as well as a host of important public goods such as infrastructure, certification and property rights, Governments need information about the obstacles and opportunities that the private sector faces in order to design policy interventions to address these constraints.

176. We acknowledge that the acceleration of growth will depend on enabling the public and private sectors to build, explore and renew industrial capacities and to take advantage of complementarities between sectors, emerging value chains, and the upgrading of products, processes and functions.

177. We recognize the centrality of strong and autonomous institutions for supporting industrial development strategies and for the effective monitoring and tracking of Africa’s progress in bringing about structural transformation.

178. We deplore the unfortunate situation whereby Africa loses \$50 billion a year in illicit financial flows. These flows relate principally to commercial transactions, tax evasion, criminal activities (money laundering, and drug, arms and human trafficking), bribery, corruption and abuse of office. Countries that are rich in natural resources and countries with inadequate or non-existent institutional architecture are the most at risk of falling victim to illicit financial flows. These illicit flows have a negative impact on Africa’s development efforts: the most serious consequences are the loss of investment capital and revenue that could have been used to finance development programmes, the undermining of State institutions and a weakening of the rule of law.

179. We pledge to take the necessary coordinated action nationally, regionally and continentally to strengthen our economic governance institutions and machinery, focusing especially on tax administration, contract negotiations, and trade-related financial leakages. In addition, we will engage with the international community, in the context of the ongoing discussions on the reform of global economic governance, in order to highlight our concerns regarding illicit transfers, including the question of tax havens.

180. We commend the adoption of the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and welcome the overarching goal of the Common African Position, which is to place Africa’s structural transformation goals at the heart of the post-2015 global development agenda. We strongly urge the international community, including all of our development partners, to embrace the Common African Position when formulating the global agenda.

181. We salute the African Central Bank Governors, who have just held their first caucus meeting, for the inclusion of an agenda on Africa’s structural transformation in their mandate.

182. We commit ourselves to the vigorous pursuit and implementation of the policy recommendations emanating from our deliberations and to aligning these with our national industrial development strategies in order to ensure that tangible results are achieved. We aim to use these results as a basis for peer learning and experience-sharing at our annual joint meetings. To this

end, we call on the African Union Commission and Economic Commission for Africa to facilitate the process of making our meetings even more action-oriented, and underpinned by evidence-based research. We therefore mandate the commissions to generate the necessary documentation on the basis of sound statistical information and analyses.

183. While underscoring the fact that Africa will be the architect and author of its structural transformation agenda, we recognize and appreciate the role that properly aligned international partnerships can and should play to support our efforts. In this respect, we welcome the holding of the 2014 meeting of the United Nations Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa in parallel with our joint annual meetings, as an opportunity to advance dialogue and build greater synergies for maximum scale and development impact.

184. We thank the Government and people of Nigeria for the warm hospitality extended to each and every one of us during the seventh joint annual meetings. We also congratulate the African Union Commission and Economic Commission for Africa for the efforts that they deployed in order to ensure fruitful and successful meetings.

Annex I – Resolutions Adopted by the 7th Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

A. Resolution

913(XLVII) Role of renewable energy in Africa’s industrialization and economic transformation

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the various African Union instruments adopted to accelerate the development of renewable energy options, in particular the 2010 Maputo Declaration adopted by the African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Energy, the 2011 Abu Dhabi Communiqué on Renewable Energy for Accelerating Africa’s Development,

Recognizing that the ability of African countries to establish a competitive industrial sector and promote greater industrial linkages has been constrained by poor infrastructure, including their energy systems, resulting in high production and transaction costs,

Conscious that, if renewable energy options and potentials are not robustly and strategically harnessed, the commendable growth in African gross domestic product recorded over the last decade will be curtailed, as economic growth is strongly correlated with the energy sector,

Requests the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the regional economic communities and other relevant organizations to support member States in mobilizing the necessary financial and technical resources to promote renewable energy at regional and national levels and to optimize investments in generation and transmission infrastructures with a view to increasing the overall share of renewable energy;

Resolves to ensure transformative industrialization in Africa through the development of a cutting-edge renewable energy sector that facilitates Africa’s efforts to promote a green economy.

914(XLVII) African regional integration index

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the recommendation of the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, held in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, in March 2013, which called for the enhancement of the monitoring and evaluation of Africa’s integration agenda,

Recalling also decision EX.CL/Dec.794(XXIV) adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, which called for the establishment of an integration observatory and development of a harmonized framework scientifically to assess the implementation of the integration process, using integration indicators and common benchmarks of evaluation and assessment, based on the African Union’s Agenda 2063,

Acknowledging the keen interest and political leadership of African Heads of State and Government in accelerating Africa's integration agenda, as manifested in, among other instruments, their January 2012 Declaration on Boosting Intra-African Trade and the Establishment of a Continental Free Trade Area,⁷

Noting with appreciation the work currently under way by the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to assess the implementation of Africa's regional integration agenda as defined in the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community, the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Minimum Integration Programme, and taking into consideration key publications such as the joint publication of the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank on assessing regional integration in Africa,

Recognizing the critical importance of constantly tracking progress on Africa's regional integration through measurable indicators to provide a thorough assessment of the performance of member States and regional economic communities, and to draw lessons for the future,

1. *Takes note* of the background concept paper on the establishment of an African regional integration index aimed at assessing and elucidating the progress by member States and the regional economic communities towards attainment of the established goals and objectives of Africa's regional integration, in line with the Abuja Treaty, the Constitutive Act of the African Union and related treaties and protocols;
2. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission on this initiative and on their efforts to integrate the African regional integration index in the Commission's country profiles;
3. *Calls upon* the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to take all necessary steps to develop and use the African regional integration index as proposed in the concept paper, taking into account the discussion and related observations made at the present meeting;
4. *Urges* the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to work closely with the regional economic communities in the development and use of the African regional integration index;
5. *Further urges* Governments to scale up their commitment to and support for the accelerated attainment of the objectives of Africa's regional integration by mainstreaming agreed plans and programmes into national development policies, strategies and budgets;
6. *Undertakes* to work in close collaboration with other relevant ministries at the national level, to support the successful realization of the African regional integration index and Africa's regional integration in general.

⁷Assembly/AU/Decl.1(XVIII).

915(XLVII) New continent-wide initiative on gender equality and women's empowerment

The Conference of Ministers,

Acknowledging the importance of the contribution of women to the social and economic development of Africa, and the centrality of women to Africa's social and economic transformation,

Recognizing that, while the regional and international commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment to which African Governments are signatories have led to some progress on the situation of women, significant gender gaps still exist,

Noting with appreciation the past and ongoing work that the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with other partners, has carried out to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in member States,

Welcoming the proposed continent-wide initiative for gender equality and women's empowerment, which is aimed at contributing significantly to changing women's lives by promoting gender equality and women's social, economic and political rights; ensuring that the economic contributions of women are recognized and given due value; fostering women's economic empowerment by promoting women's entrepreneurship within Africa's commodity-based industrialization and via the accompanying value addition; and ensuring the appropriate delivery of quality social services, including social protection and social security, to women.

Believing that the initiative is a transformative programme for African women that adds significant value to the continent's structural transformation agenda,

1. *Endorses* the new continent-wide initiative on gender equality and women's empowerment;
2. *Commits* itself to supporting full implementation of the initiative through the mobilization of regional and international resources, and other measures;
3. *Expresses* its strong political and financial support through the regular budget and public expenditure to ensure the successful implementation of the initiative;
4. *Urges* the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to report on progress made on the initiative during the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance.

916(XLVII) Illicit financial flows

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 886 (XLIV) of 29 March 2011, which decided on the establishment of a high-level panel on illicit financial flows from Africa,

Reaffirming that illicit financial flows constitute a drain on the resources required for Africa's development,

Noting the diligence manifested and extensive amount of work undertaken by the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, established by resolution 886 (XLIV), in its analysis of illicit financial flows, involving extensive consultations with a range of stakeholders in Africa and partners in the United States of America and Europe,

Expressing appreciation to the Panel for the amount of work that it has accomplished.

Expressing appreciation to African Governments and organizations and to Africa's partners and development agencies for their overwhelming support for the work of the Panel,

1. *Calls on* the Panel to submit its final report to the African Union Assembly of Heads of States and Government at its twenty-third ordinary session in June 2014;
2. *Calls on* African Governments and development partners to adopt supportive policies and practices to combat illicit financial flows;
3. *Requests* the continued engagement of the Chair of the Panel in carrying out advocacy work to disseminate the Panel's findings and to galvanize support from a broad coalition of partners to implement the Panel's recommendations;
4. *Entrusts* the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, with disseminating the findings and recommendations of the Panel and undertaking further research and capacity-development activities in this regard within the continent and at the global level.

917(XLVII) Country profiles

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the presentation on the new strategic orientations of the institution, made by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa during the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2013,

Noting the need in Africa for specific country profiles that focus on structural transformation of the African economies,

Recognizing that the country profiles can provide an effective vehicle for the Economic Commission for Africa to produce and disseminate country- and region-specific policy analysis and recommendations on structural transformation of African economies,

Welcoming this initiative as an important contribution towards the formulation of evidence-based policies and the dissemination of high-quality and timely statistics on the socioeconomic performance of African member States,

1. *Adopts* the country profile template proposed by the Economic Commission for Africa;
2. *Commits itself* to improving the collaboration between African countries' national statistical systems and the Economic Commission for Africa in the production of, access to and dissemination of data and country profiles;
3. *Urges* the Economic Commission for Africa to scale up its efforts to strengthen national statistical systems, with a view to improving the availability, quality and timeliness of statistics in African countries.

918(XLVII) Strategic framework and biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2016–2017

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/203 of 11 December 1986 and subsequent relevant resolutions on programme planning,

Recalling also resolution 908 (XLVI) of 26 March 2013 of the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance on refocusing and recalibrating the support of the Economic Commission for Africa for the structural transformation of the continent,

Recalling further the decisions taken by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its twenty-second ordinary session on 30 and 31 January 2014 with regard to progress in the development of the African Union's Agenda 2063; the formulation of the African development goals; the adoption of the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda; and the outcome document of the General Assembly high-level meeting of 13 September 2013 on the international development agenda beyond 2015,

Taking note with appreciation of the annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa,⁸ which highlighted the significant results achieved by the Commission in its programme areas, namely macroeconomic policy, regional integration and trade, innovation and technology, the management of Africa's natural resources, statistics, capacity development, gender and women in development, subregional initiatives and data centres, development planning and administration, and social development policy,

⁸ E/ECA/COE/33/11.

Noting with satisfaction the Commission's continued efforts to put Africa first and the continent's work to promote inclusive growth for accelerated structural transformation, in line with the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063,

Noting also with satisfaction the efforts to strengthen support for member States' achievement of the sustainable development goals, in line with the commitments under the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and for implementation of the international development agenda beyond 2015 as and when it is agreed upon,

Noting further the Commission's continued efforts to enhance its partnership with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and other relevant partners, in line with its new partnership strategy, to ensure coherent support for Africa's transformation agenda within the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063,

Welcoming the systematic use of results-based management approaches in programme design and implementation,

Having examined the draft strategic framework and proposed biennial programme plan for the Economic Commission for Africa 2014–2015,⁹

1. *Endorses* the proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan for the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2016–2017, taking into account the discussion and related observations made at the present meeting;
2. *Calls on* the Committee for Programme and Coordination to support the biennial programme plan for the Economic Commission for Africa 2016–2017 and to ensure that the necessary resources are made available for its effective implementation;
3. *Urges* the United Nations Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that Africa's development remains a top priority for the United Nations development agenda, with a view to enabling African countries to meet their development goals;
4. *Calls for* the enhanced use of results-based management approaches for better accountability and impact in programme delivery.

919(XLVII) Green economy and structural transformation in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 884 (XLIV) calling upon member States to establish mechanisms to enable transitioning to green economy development paths,

Recalling also the commitments of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the outcome of the Africa regional implementation meeting on the processes to follow up on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,

⁹ E/ECA/COE/31/20.

Emphasizing the huge potential that the inclusive green economy presents for accelerating and sustaining Africa's industrialization and overall structural transformation,

Acknowledging that Africa's potential to embark fully on a green economy trajectory will inevitably result in the mobilization of new financial resources from public and private sources to address social inequalities and reduce the risks that environmental degradation and climate change pose for Africa's economic growth,

Recognizing the importance of science, new technologies and innovation in achieving a green economy in Africa, as a foundation for the realization of a green economy pathway in Africa that will lead to wealth creation, stimulate youth employment and secure Africa's nascent industrial development through cleaner technologies,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the capacity of African countries to formulate and implement inclusive green economy policies in order to foster and accelerate the achievement of a climate-resilient pathway through structural transformation,

1. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other development partners to support African countries in strengthening their capacity to formulate, adopt and implement inclusive green economy policies in the context of accelerating structural transformation in the region;
2. *Invites* multilateral agencies, bilateral partners, foundations, research institutions and universities to work with the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme to provide technical assistance and financial resources to enable member States to usher in a favorable business environment that will leverage technological opportunities, optimize entrepreneurial development, enable economic growth through the greening of key productive sectors to generate new jobs, and enhance the quality of life of African people.

920(XLVII) Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance

The Conference of Ministers,

Taking note of the report of the extraordinary meeting of experts for the validation of the statute and annexes of the African Monetary Fund, the technical study on the establishment of a pan-African stock exchange, the report on the feasibility study on the creation of an African integration fund, and the proposals on the mechanisms for implementing the recommendation from the report on alternative sources of financing the African Union,

1. *Requests* the African Union Commission to hold further consultations with member States on the finalization of the technical study on the establishment of a pan-African stock exchange and the report on the feasibility study on the creation of an African integration fund and to submit the study and the later report to the Specialized Technical Committee on Monetary and Financial Affairs in 2015 and to the African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Integration in May 2015;

2. *Also requests* the African Union Commission to submit the revised statute of the African Monetary Fund to the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its twenty-fourth regular session in June 2014 for consideration and adoption.

921(XLVII) Agricultural transformation for an industrialized Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, which was endorsed by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its second ordinary session, in July 2003 in Maputo,

Recalling also that, at its nineteenth ordinary session, the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government declared 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme,

Recognizing the key role of agriculture in efforts to eradicate poverty and food and nutrition insecurity in Africa,

Noting the progress made in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, including the signing of the associated compact in forty member States and the development of national agriculture and food security investment plans in thirty-two member States,

Recognizing the importance of the implementation of the national agriculture and food security investment plans under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, in order to achieve improved production and productivity, better access to markets, increased public-private investments along value chains, better natural resource management which will ultimately contribute to food and nutrition security, and resilience and wealth creation on the African continent,

1. *Calls upon* member States significantly to increase their public budgets allocated to agriculture and related sectors in support of the agricultural sector in line with the targets of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme on the allocation of at least 10 per cent of annual budgets to agriculture, with a view to achieving an increase of at least 6 per cent in agricultural gross domestic product;
2. *Requests* ministries of economy and finance and ministries of development and planning to create more incentives for private sector investments along all agricultural value chains;
3. *Invites* member States to strengthen public-private partnerships to facilitate and channel private sector investments, both domestic and external, in agro-industries.

922(XLVII) Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing that the continent has enjoyed strong economic growth in all its subregions for over a decade and made strides in reducing poverty and increasing access to education and health services, among other social developments,

Acknowledging that, despite these achievements, much of Africa's population remains trapped in poverty, facing unemployment, inequality and persistent gender disparities, with limited access to economic opportunities,

Recalling the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, which recognized the importance of structural transformation for the sustained and inclusive growth and development of Africa's economies, and called for the scaling up of transformation efforts by adding value to commodity production and entering higher segments of global and regional value chains in order to create jobs and raise incomes,

Taking note of industrialization as the route that developed and developing countries alike have embarked upon to pursue employment-generating growth and development, with its immense potential to create upstream and downstream linkages with the rest of the economy and create more high-income jobs,

Requests that the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission, together with the regional economic communities and other partner institutions, cement industrialization in the post-2015 development agenda and the Agenda 2063 framework, and continue to research how countries can rework industrial policy as a means of achieving sustainable and inclusive economic transformation.

923(XLVII) Post-2015 development agenda

The Conference of Ministers,

1. *Commends* the Heads of State and Government on adopting the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which is based on the views and aspirations of a wide spectrum of African stakeholders as expressed during a series of consultations that included the regional consultations on sustainable development goals;
2. *Commends* the members of the High-level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda on their commitment and leadership in the efforts to finalize the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
3. *Requests* member States to mainstream the common African position into their national development plans;

4. *Also* requests member States to ensure that the overarching goal of the Common African Position, which is to eradicate poverty in all its forms, is the key message in the intergovernmental negotiation process on the post-2015 development agenda, and to be vigilant about what Africa is negotiating;
5. Requests the African Union Commission, in collaboration with partners, to carry out projections of sustainable financing needs for implementing the post-2015 development agenda in Africa using sustainable finance including domestic resources;
6. *Calls upon* the secretariat of the High-level Committee, with the support of partners, to come up with an advocacy and negotiation strategy to build alliances in order to ensure that African priorities identified in the Common African Position are reflected in the global post-2015 development agenda;
7. *Requests* member States to enhance their statistical capacity to enable them to effectively monitor progress in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, and calls upon countries that have not signed and ratified the African Charter on Statistics to do so as expeditiously as possible;
8. *Calls upon* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Capacity-Building Foundation, to fast-track the establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics and the African Statistics Training Centre, in accordance with the decision made by Heads of State and Government;
9. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme to facilitate regular expert dialogue between development planners and statisticians, with the purpose of embedding statistics in planning and management for results, so that Africa's transformative programme is achieved;
10. *Further requests* the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the regional economic communities, with the support of partners, to organize a high-level conference in 2014 to discuss the data revolution in Africa and its implications for the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the post-2015 development agenda.

924(XLVII) Postal financial services

The Conference of Ministers,

Considering the 2010 Addis Ababa Declaration on Information Communication Technology Development in Africa: Challenges and Prospects for Development (Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (XIV),

Recalling decisions EX.CL Dec./435 (XIII) and 545 (XVI) of the Executive Council of the African Union on the development of the postal sector in Africa,

Taking note of the report of the African Union Commission on postal financial services in Africa, strategies to increase the inclusion of low-income populations, the vastness of the postal sector and

its important role in providing access to financial services for an estimated 10 per cent of the adult population,

Reiterating that increasing financial inclusion is a key consideration in reducing poverty, in line with the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Millennium Development Goals and the decisions taken by the Heads of State, sectoral ministers and the African Union Executive Council,

Emphasizing the important role of the postal sector as an existing component of the infrastructure for providing access to basic services, in particular to the underserved poor, rural communities and children, and the potential of postal networks to increase financial inclusion,

Observing the global changes in the postal industry that have resulted from new technologies, substitution and competition,

Noting the impact of these changes on African State-owned postal operators, which has resulted in the decline of revenue from conventional postal services, growing underutilization of State assets and resources belonging to the postal sector, and questions about the economic viability of the traditional business model,

Underscoring the need for postal networks to use broadband and deploy advanced information and communication technology in order to provide adequate access to basic financial and other services,

1. *Confirms* its commitment to prioritizing the transformation of existing postal assets and resources, with a view to increasing access to basic services and thereby promoting financial inclusion;
2. *Commends* member States on their efforts to push forward harmonized legal reforms, in collaboration with financial regulators and postal regulatory bodies, and considering the specificity of postal financial services, with a view to providing postal financial services that are more viable, competitive and suited to customers' needs; that facilitate e-commerce; and that benefit small and medium-sized enterprises, thereby playing an important role in long-term financing for Africa's industrialization;
3. *Mandates* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Pan-African Postal Union, the *regional* economic communities, subregional postal organizations and the member States, to improve the performance of postal financial services, support information dissemination and best practices, and promote innovation in the areas in which Africa faces particular challenges;
4. *Encourages* development partners, in particular the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for *Africa*, the Universal Postal Union, the European Union, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Bank, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor and the World Savings Bank Institute, to support the implementation of the present resolution.

925(XLVII) Productivity, competitiveness and industrialization

The Conference of Ministers,

Recognizing the importance of productivity and social dialogue for the achievement of inclusive growth and as building blocks for industrialization, social cohesion and economic transformation,

Conscious that Africa is viewed as the least productive region in the world on the basis of the global competitiveness of nations and that the declining productivity in Africa is a long-term trend, as underlined in the 2012 report of the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa on implementation of the Millennium Development Goals,¹⁰

Recognizing the contribution of productivity to building the resilience of African economies, employment promotion, inclusive development and the eradication of poverty and inequality,

Acknowledging the African Union Productivity Agenda for Africa as the main policy instrument to raise the productivity profile of the member States of the African Union and their competitiveness in the global economy,

1. *Commits itself* to speeding up implementation of the African Union Productivity Agenda for Africa, which, as an essential engine for accelerated industrialization on the continent, will progressively build and enhance the competitiveness of the continent in the global economy;
2. *Calls for* enhancement of the Pan-African Productivity Association, to provide it with the capacity to act as a regional think-tank, catalyser, research and knowledge developer and policy adviser on productivity at the continental level;
3. *Also calls for* the establishment and enhancement of productivity organizations at national and regional levels and for efforts to ensure that they become members of the Pan-African Productivity Association;
4. *Requests* the African Union Commission to work closely with the Pan-African Productivity Association, the regional economic communities and international partners, including the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in order to facilitate the establishment of regional organizations on productivity and social dialogue and to compile and disseminate best practices on productivity in Africa;
5. *Recognizes* the importance of small and medium-sized enterprises, microenterprises, and public sector administrations that deal with private sector competitiveness, for increased participation by African firms in the global value chain, and recommends that small and medium-sized enterprises and other informal sector operators be properly organized and supported via the implementation of a productivity intervention programme specifically designed for the sector;

¹⁰ECA, African Union Commission, African Development Bank, UNDP, *MDG Report 2012: Assessing Progress in Africa towards the Millennium Development Goals* (Addis Ababa, 2012).

6. *Requests* the African Union Commission, the Pan-African Productivity Association, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne (AFRISTAT) and other development partners to develop a comprehensive productivity and competitiveness measurement system to track progress and to make intercountry, interregional and global comparisons;
7. *Undertakes* to join efforts with the ministries of labour, industry, economic development and finance and with other relevant bodies in the public and private sector in promoting social dialogue and productivity in support of the implementation of industrial policies at all levels;
8. *Invites* the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, the Pan-African Productivity Association and other development partners to organize regular workshops to foster a culture of productivity in Africa.

926(XLVII) Alternative sources of financing for the African Union

The Conference of Ministers,

Welcoming the decision taken at the twenty-first ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in May 2013 in Addis Ababa, to adopt in principle the report of the High-level Panel on Alternative Sources of Financing for the African Union chaired by His Excellency Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,

Commending the Chair and the members of the High-level Panel on their report,

Cognizant of the principle that the African Union needs adequate, sustainable and predictable financial resources in order to fund its programmes, including those on peace and security, and to reduce its dependency on external partners,

1. *Decides* to set up a ministerial working group operating under the leadership of the African Union Commission, with the technical support of the Economic Commission for Africa, that comprises the following countries: Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Tunisia.
2. *Requests* the African Union Commission, with the support of the Economic Commission for Africa and members of the ministerial working group, to examine the African Union's budget targets for the next three-year period, including the budget for peace and security, and to come up with implementation mechanisms based on the two options proposed in the report of the High-level Panel as well as additional new options, with the findings of the working group to be considered by Ministers of Finance on the margins of the World Economic Forum that is to be held from 7 to 9 May 2014 in Abuja;

3. *Requests* the African Union Commission to submit the report of the working group at the twenty-third ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union that is to be held in June 2014 in Malabo.

927(XLVII) African Risk Capacity agency: sovereign disaster risk solutions

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling resolution 905 (XLV) of the fifth 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 Addis Ababa in March 2012, by which the Conference decided that the African Risk Capacity agency should be established as a specialized agency of the African Union and accorded the privileges and immunities specified in the Organization of African Unity General Convention on Privileges and Immunities,

Recalling also that the aforementioned resolution was endorsed by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government in decision 417(XIX), adopted at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa in July 2012,

Recognizing that, while ex ante sovereign disaster risk management is a critical element of countries' climate change adaptation strategies, there is an urgent need for African governments to have access to climate financing linked to objective data on the adverse consequences of more frequent and intense extreme weather events, which are expected to proliferate in many parts of Africa as a consequence of climate change,

Welcoming the progress report of the African Union Commission on the establishment of the African Risk Capacity agency;

1. *Requests* development finance institutions and partners to channel their financial support for risk management in Africa through the existing African-led institutions;
2. *Also requests* the secretariat of the African Risk Capacity agency to develop a proposal for an arrangement by which African governments can gain access to climate financing, linked to increased climate volatility, for adaptation activities and climate-resilient development pathways;
3. *Urges* African Union member States to sign and ratify the agreement on the establishment of the African Risk Capacity agency, in order to be able to use the agency's weather risk-management advisory services, expertise and tools, such as the Africa Risk View software;
4. *Calls upon* development partners and partner institutions to support this endeavour and critical contribution to the continent's climate change management and adaptation infrastructure, as the international community moves from the Hyogo Framework for Action towards a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Annex II – Report of the Committee of the Experts of the Seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

Introduction

1. The meeting of the Committee of Experts of the seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance was held in Abuja from 25 to 28 March 2014.

Part One

I. 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, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following regional economic communities were represented: Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); East African Community (EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC), Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) .

4. The following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; International Labour Organization; International Monetary Fund; International Maritime Organization; Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; Office of the Special Adviser on Africa; Regional Commissions New York Office; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; United Nations Human Settlements Programme; Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; United Nations Office for Project Services; United Nations Population Fund; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; United Nations Office to the African Union; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); World Bank; World Food Programme; World Health Organization; World Intellectual Property Organization; and World Meteorological Organization.

5. The following Member States of the United Nations were represented: Australia, France, Switzerland and United States of America.

6. Also present were the African Development Bank; New Partnership for Africa's Development; Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa; and West African Economic and Monetary Union.

7. Observers were present from the following organizations: African Capacity Building Foundation; African Centre for Meteorological Application for Development; Africa Health; Human and Social Development (Afri-Dev); Action Aid International; Gavi Alliance; Pan African Postal Union; League of Arab States; African Monitor; African Population and Health Research; African Risk Capacity; African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD); East African Tax and Governance Network; International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); African Agricultural Development; Namibia Statistics Agency; Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF); OXFAM International; Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Group; Save the Children International; Stellenbosch University; Department for International Development (DFID); Zenth Bank; Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and Africa Business Round Table.

B. Opening statements

8. Opening statements were made by Mr. Anatole Yehouan Tohougbe, Chair of the outgoing Bureau of the Committee of Experts, Technical Adviser at the Ministry of Planning and Development of Côte d'Ivoire; Mr. Anthony Mothae Maruping, African Union Commissioner for Economic Affairs; and Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary of ECA. The meeting was opened on behalf of the Government of Nigeria by Mr. Abraham Nwankwo, Director General of the Debt Management Office of Nigeria.

9. Mr. Tohougbe chaired the opening session of the meeting.

10. Expressing thanks to the Government of Nigeria for hosting the meeting, Mr. Tohougbe noted the important role which, over the years, the joint African Union Commission-ECA Conference of Ministers had come to play as a platform for high-level dialogue on the economic and political challenges facing Africa. Building on its previous meetings, the Committee aimed at its current meeting to deepen the discussion on industrialization in Africa.

11. He observed that Africa was at a moment in its history when it was poised to experience substantial economic growth. That growth, however, had to be sustained and inclusive and should lead to employment creation. In that regard, industrialization – in particular resource-based industrialization – was an imperative for Africa, as it would reduce the continent's dependence on the export of primary commodities. In that context, he commended the secretariat on the agenda that it had prepared for the meeting, setting out the major themes associated with Africa's industrialization. In conclusion, he thanked the Committee for the support that it had given the outgoing Bureau and called on it to provide similar support to the incoming Bureau.

12. In his statement, Mr. Maruping also observed that Africa was passing through an unprecedented stage in its development history and that it was imperative for Africans today to take charge of their development agenda. That aspiration was demonstrated, above all, by two parallel and historic processes: first, the common African position on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, by which Africans aimed to speak with one voice when negotiations began on the new global development agenda, and, second, the African Union's Agenda 2063, designed to articulate a continent-wide vision for Africa's future over the coming 50 years.

13. Expressing gratitude, in particular, to ECA, the United Nations Population Fund and the African Development Bank for their unwavering support for these processes, he recalled that the formulation of the two framework documents in question had involved extensive consultations among a wide range of African stakeholders across the continent, who had identified green growth, industrialization and value addition as key elements in the planned economic transformation and inclusive growth of the continent. Accordingly, the theme for the current meeting, “Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa”, was very timely, motivated by the realization that Africa’s recent unprecedented growth had not been sufficiently inclusive and had not been translated into commensurate job creation, greater equality and distribution of wealth. Major structural transformation was therefore needed both to sustain the current economic performance and to move forwards to industrialization.

14. To that end, at the forthcoming fifth session of the European Union-Africa Business Forum, Africa would push for a partnership to promote industrialization in the context of structural economic transformation for inclusive and resilient economic growth. Similarly, in the negotiations of the post-2015 development agenda already under way in New York, the continent would seek the inclusion of a specific goal on rapid, sustainable and inclusive industrial development.

15. Mr. Hamdok expressed appreciation to the Nigerian Government for its contribution to the organization of the Conference and its support for ECA in that process. Stressing the importance of the annual meetings of the Committee of Experts as a platform for the expression of expert views on topical developments affecting Africa’s transformative agenda, he provided an overview of recent economic and social conditions in Africa and highlighted emerging issues of relevance to Africa’s development agenda and related work undertaken by the ECA secretariat.

16. In general, growth in Africa continued to benefit from high commodity demand on the international market, growing domestic demand associated with urbanization and rising incomes; increased public spending on infrastructure, and enhanced macroeconomic management and policies. Africa’s growth potential remained largely untapped, however, and stronger growth could be fostered with policies that stimulated aggregate demand and trade both within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world. Drawing inspiration from the experiences of Malaysia, Singapore and the Taiwan Province of China, he underscored the need for inclusive industrial policy processes and innovative and dynamic institutions that facilitated continual dialogue among stakeholders, to identify long-term and emerging challenges to industrialization and the necessary mechanisms to address those challenges.

17. Highlighting the main activities undertaken by ECA in support of Africa’s development, he stated his conviction that Africa’s development prospects were brighter today than they had ever been. ECA shared the conviction that Africa’s moment in history had arrived and therefore, to maximize the resulting opportunities, there was an urgent need for well thought out strategies, policies and plans that would herald a genuine and inclusive African structural transformation.

18. Mr. Nwankwo, speaking on behalf of the country’s federal authorities, welcomed participants to Nigeria and to the meeting of the Conference of Ministers. He noted that the theme of the Conference was particularly apt and, in that context, emphasized the need for Africa’s growth to be inclusive and transformative, with a view to generating employment for the youth of the continent. He stressed that implementation of Africa’s transformative agenda required comprehensive actions that would lead to economic, social and political growth. It also necessitated strong political will and extensive social mobilization.

19. In that context, he identified a number of challenges that African countries had to overcome in the transformation process, including the dilemma posed by the need, on the one hand, to take advantage of new technology, while, on the other, also creating jobs. That dilemma was particularly relevant to the conditions of a globalizing world, in which the more advanced countries were increasing their competitive advantage through the use of new technology. He informed the Conference of Nigeria's approach to social and economic transformation and reaffirmed his Government's commitment, in that regard, to deep structural transformation in the long term, while devoting considerable effort to alleviating poverty in the short term.

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

20. The following agenda was adopted by the Committee:

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. Review of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda
5. Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa
6. Presentation and discussion on the theme of the Conference, "Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa"
7. Presentation and discussion on the new continent-wide gender and development initiative
8. African regional integration index
9. Presentation and discussion on the report on South-South and triangular cooperation in support of Africa post-2015
10. Discussion of *The Cost of Hunger in Africa*: social and economic impact of child undernutrition in Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda
11. Presentation of statutory issues
12. Any other business
13. Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the Committee of Experts and the draft resolutions
14. Closure of the meeting

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

Chair:	Nigeria
First Vice-Chair:	Mauritania
Second Vice-Chair:	Malawi
Third Vice-Chair:	Equatorial Guinea
Rapporteur:	United Republic of Tanzania

Part Two: Account of proceedings

III. Overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa [agenda item 3]

A. Presentation

22. The secretariat provided an overview of recent economic and social developments in Africa, highlighting the main messages from document E/ECA/COE/33/2-AU/CAMEF/EXP/2IIX. Mainly owing to subdued global demand, Africa's growth overall had slowed from the rate of 5.7 per cent registered in 2012. In 2013, however, it had remained robust at 4.0 per cent – almost twice the global average. Nevertheless, growth remained far below the continent's potential and had failed to translate into meaningful job creation, broad-based economic and social development, and reduced poverty and inequality. Economic performance varied across subregions and continued to depend on exports of commodities, making oil-exporting countries the leading drivers of Africa's growth. Medium-term growth prospects were relatively strong, in spite of some downside risks.

23. Despite improved export performance and fairly strong growth performance, Africa's financing gap remained huge, hence the need to explore untapped and innovative approaches to financing Africa's industrialization and economic transformation. Such approaches could include the use of sovereign funds, private equity and pension funds, and combating illicit financial flows.

24. Africa had continued to make steady progress in addressing some of its key social and economic challenges (such as the incidence of extreme poverty, which was on the decline), despite remaining below the levels needed in order for the continent to meet its social development goals. Accordingly, there was a need to translate Africa's recent growth into more than just macroeconomic performance, via strategies that would transform economies by emphasizing increased value addition to commodities and diversification into higher-productivity employment-generating sectors, especially manufacturing and modern services.

B. Discussion

25. In the ensuing discussion, participants emphasized that growth in Africa had been characterized by high levels of inequality and low levels of productivity, and had not translated into decent jobs. It was also noted that there had been little diversification on the continent, with high levels of dependence on natural resources and little value added. Many African countries continued to depend on imported food products, and were making little use of irrigated farming and modern techniques to enhance productivity in that sector. As a result, the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, at its nineteenth ordinary session, had declared 2014 to be the Year of Agriculture and Food Security, in order to accelerate the development of the agricultural sector. It was also stressed that people who moved away from agriculture in order to better their lives often ended up in low-productivity service sector activities. One of the main challenges both to industrialization and to intra-African trade had been low-quality infrastructure, particularly in the area of energy, which had constrained the efforts to bring about structural transformation on the continent. The mismatch between education systems and the needs of job markets was highlighted as one of the main factors behind the high level of informality in the labour market and the rising levels of unemployment, especially among young people.

26. It was also noted that economic policies were often characterized by failures to address poverty through the mobilization of savings and investment. Financing development in Africa entailed a

number of challenges, including a lack of fiscal space, weak linkages between the public and private sectors, a lack of bankable projects, and leakages of resources through illicit financial flows. Weak governance systems, political instability and security issues represented serious threats to sustainable growth and economic transformation in Africa. Moreover, data inconsistency remained a daunting challenge, which affected policy formulation and analysis.

C. Recommendations

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

- (a) African countries must embark on strategies to transform their economies through increased value addition to their commodities and diversification into higher-productivity employment-generating sectors, especially manufacturing and modern services;
- (b) Industrial policies should form an integral component of long-term planning frameworks that address constraints to economic diversification and development;
- (c) Efforts should be made to add value to Africa's raw materials as a means of promoting industrialization;
- (d) The African Union and ECA should design and assist member States in the implementation of a plan of action and a road map on infrastructure development for industrialization, with a particular focus on priority sectors;
- (e) Effective policies to address the linkages between the demographic dividend, employment and sustainable growth should be designed and adopted;
- (f) Targeted measures should be adopted to mobilize domestic resources and close the financing gap caused by illicit financial flows, such as enhancing the tax revenue base, mobilizing innovative sources of finance, and addressing leakages;
- (g) Regional sources of funding, should be developed for structural transformation from both within and outside Africa;
- (h) The statistical capacity to produce comprehensive, reliable and comparable data for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation should be developed;
- (i) While Africa's collaboration with different partners is critical, it should be based on the continent's structural transformation priorities.

IV. Review of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda [agenda item 4]

A. Presentations

28. Under the agenda item, the secretariat gave two presentations: the first on the status of implementing the Millennium Development Goals in Africa in 2013 and the second reviewing the regional process under way in Africa with a view to developing a common African position on the post-2015 development agenda.

1. Review of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

29. The presenter highlighted the progress made by African countries in meeting their commitments under the Millennium Development Goals. Although overall progress was too slow and uneven for the majority of the goals to be met by 2015, the continent was on track to achieve goals 2 (universal primary education), 3 (gender equality and the empowerment of women) and 6 (combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases). In many countries, the incidence of extreme poverty was declining and most African countries had achieved universal primary school enrolment (enrolment rates above 90 per cent). Nearly half of African countries had achieved gender parity in primary school enrolment. Most African countries had also made considerable progress in promoting gender equality, reducing maternal and child mortality rates and combating HIV/AIDS. Progress in other areas, however, in particular combating extreme poverty and reducing child and infant mortality rates, remained slow.

30. In comparison to other regions of the world, Africa's progress on most goals was slower as it had the highest burden of child mortality, maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS. Wide variations in performance between countries and goals remained. Data scarcity continued to affect monitoring and evaluation efforts as some goals and indicators lacked sufficient data for proper analysis. Ahead of the 2015 deadline, there was considerable momentum in Africa to strengthen the institutional and financial support mechanisms for medium to long-term goals. In that regard, domestic resource mobilization should be a major priority for African countries.

31. Lessons learned from the continent's experience with the Millennium Development Goals had in turn informed the process of articulating a common African position on the post-2015 development agenda.

2. Common African position on the post-2015 development agenda

32. The presenter outlined the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda. Regional and subregional consultations had been carried out with a view to achieving consensus on a set of priorities for the new global agenda. The outcome of the consultations – including the draft common African position – had fed into the report of the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which had helped to prioritize structural economic transformation as a global development issue, and had facilitated the establishment of the African high-level committee on the post-2015 development goals. That committee comprised 10 Heads of State and Government, drawn from the five subregions of Africa, and was chaired by President Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia.

33. The key responsibilities of the high-level committee included finalizing the draft common African position and building appropriate intercontinental alliances. The draft common African position had been endorsed first by African leaders at the twenty-second ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union in January 2014, and subsequently by the high-level committee in N'Djamena in February 2014. The position comprised six pillars: first, structural economic transformation and inclusive growth; second, science, technology and innovation; third, people-centered development; fourth, environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management; fifth, peace and security; and sixth, finance and partnerships.

B. Discussion

34. In the ensuing discussion, participants emphasized that the data contained in the report of the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda were mostly outdated and did not reflect the current situation in most countries. They stressed that Africa's slow progress in meeting certain Millennium Development Goals – such as access to clean water, sanitation facilities and health care – clearly revealed considerable inequalities and the importance of ensuring inclusive growth.

35. Participants welcomed the alignment between the six pillars of the common African position and most African development plans, and stressed the need to focus on implementation measures and on tracking progress. Observing that some pillars, such as those on environmental sustainability and peace and security, represented new areas not covered by the Millennium Development Goals, they cautioned that there would be considerable demand for the collection and production of statistics to monitor progress. African countries needed to enhance domestic resource mobilization and mainstream the post-2015 development agenda into national development plans and political commitments to ensure its effective implementation.

36. Concern was expressed that there were two parallel processes on Africa's future development agenda, namely the development agenda beyond 2015 and the sustainable development goals. It was suggested that the two processes should be merged before negotiations began at the global level. The common African position on the post-2015 development agenda should be dynamic and take into account any changes that took place between the current period and 2015.

C. Recommendations

37. The following recommendations were made:

- (a) The culture of monitoring progress made on the Millennium Development Goals and translating recommendations into corrective policy actions should be promoted and strengthened;
- (b) Member States should mainstream the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda into national development plans;
- (c) African involvement in the post-2015 development agenda process should be strengthened;
- (d) The eradication of poverty in all its forms – the overarching goal of the common African position – should inform Africa's negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda at the global level;
- (e) Member States should enhance their statistical capacity and embrace the call for a data revolution to enable them effectively to monitor progress in implementing the post-2015 development agenda;
- (f) The African Union Commission, ECA and their partners should undertake a study on the financing needs for the post-2015 development agenda in Africa;

- (g) The African Union Commission, ECA and their partners should develop appropriate strategies to facilitate negotiations and the way forward;
- (h) Progress on meeting the Millennium Development Goals, in particular that on achieving food security, should be accelerated.

V. Assessment of progress on regional integration in Africa [agenda item 5]

38. The secretariat gave a presentation on the governance of regional integration in Africa. The presenter emphasized that progress had been made, albeit to varying degrees across the regional economic communities, in implementing the provisions of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (Abuja Treaty). Specific achievements included the strengthening of regional institutions, the establishment of various partnerships with the rest of the world and the development of regional integration programmes, such as the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

39. Despite the progress made, many regional economic communities still had some way to go to meet the provisions of the Abuja Treaty. The presenter underscored the need to examine closely the content of regional integration programmes in Africa in order to assess the quality of regional integration governance. He identified a number of challenges for regional integration in Africa, including barriers to the free movement of persons; Africa's excessive dependence on external sources of development funding; low intra-African trade (which accounted for some 12 per cent of total African trade and was even lower in Central Africa); the existence of numerous currencies, which hampered trade; poor-quality infrastructure; low agricultural productivity; a lack of industrialization; and inadequate investment in science and technology.

40. He noted that the issues impeding Africa's development had been identified and researched extensively and that a number of solutions had been identified. The rate of implementation of decisions taken at the regional level was quite low, however, owing to a lack of financial resources and the reluctance of member States to cede part of their sovereignty. In conclusion, African countries had thus far failed to make the transition from merely bilateral cooperation to full regional integration.

41. Participants sought clarification on the criteria for assessing progress in regional integration. In addition, the need to establish guiding principles to determine the performance of countries and regional economic communities was highlighted. A number of criteria were suggested, including the establishment of customs unions, harmonization of rules and regulations among countries, and the free movement of goods and people as a result of the abolition of visa requirements. The signing, ratification and implementation of protocols and domestication of international laws were also said to be credible indicators of regional integration. It was acknowledged that some of those concepts were already being implemented, though to varying degrees in different countries and regional economic communities. The African Union Commission was urged to take the lead in ensuring that member States honoured their commitments in that regard. In addition, participants suggested that the African Union Commission could publish, on a regular basis, the performance of member States and regional economic communities in implementing regional integration commitments.

42. Several good practices in regional integration were identified. For instance, Mauritius had unilaterally abolished visa requirements for 47 African countries; citizens of the Economic Community of West African States moved freely within the Community; the East African Community had achieved a common market; and the Southern African Development Community had made progress in integrating its infrastructure. Participants emphasized the need to exchange views and share information on progress and challenges in regard to regional integration, with a view to replicating successful practices in countries and regional economic communities that were lagging behind.

43. Participants also underscored the importance of the inclusive planning of regional integration. To that end, they stressed the need to involve all major stakeholders at the regional and national levels in the planning process, and considered the active participation of national civil servants to be a critical factor in the successful implementation of regional plans. Furthermore, the need for effective coordination of regional integration at the regional and subregional levels was highlighted. In that regard, it was noted that the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank worked closely together to ensure that such coordination took place effectively.

44. Participants also identified the need for political leadership and the sharing of some of the sovereignty of countries as central issues critical to enhancing regional integration on the continent. Lack of political will and planning posed a great challenge to acceleration of the regional integration agenda. In that regard, it would be necessary to give up some political supremacy and to develop guiding principles for achieving regional integration, taking into consideration the political, social and economic diversity among African countries.

45. Participants stressed the need to translate the cooperation existing between African countries into integration now if the continent was to achieve the goals and vision of the African Union's Agenda 2063, using the idea of a United States of Africa as a model for the sharing of sovereignty among countries. Furthermore, it was noted that maritime transport was not receiving the expected attention, given that it was one of the most important infrastructural issues in enhancing regional integration, especially for island countries such as Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles as well as some countries on the mainland that could benefit economically from the development of maritime services.

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

- (i) The African Union Commission should regularly publish the performance of member States and regional economic communities in implementing regional integration commitments;
- (j) Successful regional integration practices should be replicated in countries and regional economic communities that are lagging behind;
- (k) National civil servants should be actively involved in the formulation of regional integration plans;
- (l) African countries should move from cooperation to integration.

VI. Presentation and discussion on the theme of the Conference, “Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa” [agenda item 6]

A. Presentation

47. The secretariat introduced the theme of the Conference “Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa” and presented the related document E/ECA/COE/33/Inf/2-AU/CAMEF/EXP/Info.1(IX), highlighting the structural transformation of the continent’s economies as a path to the promotion of sustainable development and the translation of its recent impressive growth into job creation and delivery of quality social services essential to enhance productivity and growth. The presenter observed that, notwithstanding an impressive average growth rate of 5 per cent over the past decade, Africa’s growth had not been inclusive and a large percentage of the population remained trapped in poverty, facing rampant unemployment and inequality. That lack of inclusiveness had been attributed to Africa’s continued overreliance on the exploitation of raw materials with limited value addition.

48. For growth to be inclusive, Africa needed to industrialize and structurally transform the structure of its economies and products, processes that required the existence of developmental States and coherent long-term development planning frameworks with inclusive development goals. While developmental States were of critical importance if they were to promote inclusive development and transformation, they would require appropriate institutions and governance structures that would foster smooth interaction between the State and non-State actors in formulating and implementing strategies, mechanisms and processes in pursuance of a country’s industrialization goals.

B. Discussion

49. In the ensuing discussion, participants explored essential issues for Africa’s industrialization, including: institutional strengthening; funding of industrialization; the need for a paradigm shift and change of mindset; involvement of the private sector; human capital development; and the monitoring and evaluation of the industrialization process.

50. Attention was drawn to the importance of industrialization for the continent’s inclusive and structural transformation agenda. In that regard, participants stressed the need to focus industrialization strategies on areas where the continent had a comparative advantage, such as natural resources, agriculture and agribusiness. In that context, results-oriented plans based on long-term national, regional and continental visions were required to accelerate the process of industrialization. The monitoring and evaluation of the current continental industrialization programmes was also essential to guide the development of those plans and visions.

51. Participants highlighted the key role of institutions in designing and implementing effective industrial policies. A strong institutional setting would enable the correct and collective identification of constraints and the formulation of smart policy interventions that were sufficiently dynamic and refined to meet the pressing needs of industry in an ever-changing global economy.

52. Agriculture was identified as a key sector in unlocking Africa’s industrialization potential and tackling its food insecurity. Integrated value chains at regional and continental levels should be used in the development of agribusiness, which in turn would drive inclusive growth and reduce poverty both in rural and urban areas.

53. Participants underlined the importance of both the private and the informal sectors as engines of inclusive growth and decent employment opportunities, with key roles to play in Africa's industrialization. In that regard, reforming the business and investment climate was a prerequisite for engaging the private sector in job creation by training and using African talent and developing the potential of services and industries. They also stressed the need to implement special economic zones and to strengthen public-private dialogue and public-private partnerships. They agreed that a bold business and investment climate would help develop the private sector and stimulate competitiveness.

54. The lack of long-term financing was identified as a major impediment to Africa's industrialization. To overcome that challenge, participants underlined the need for innovative sources of funding, including remittances, lease finance, private equity, bonds, sovereign wealth funds and regional financing alternatives, and financing through development financial institutions as a means of closing the gap in the financing required for Africa's industrial development.

55. Participants expressed the conviction that human capital development – in particular, skills development – was a fundamental prerequisite for Africa's industrialization, decent job creation and inclusive growth. They also emphasized the need to develop a link between the skills which educational systems produced and those which the industrial sector actually required. In that context, special attention should be given to innovation, research and development and technology to enhance the productivity of human capital and the competitiveness of enterprises.

56. Participants identified the lack of adequate infrastructure as a significant obstacle to Africa's industrial development. To date, Africa's markets had remained largely inaccessible owing to inadequate physical infrastructure, including roads, railways, harbours and airports. The poor state of the continent's electricity and water services and information and communications technology entailed high costs for industries, undermined their competitiveness and impeded access to local and international markets. It was agreed that the poor state of infrastructure posed a significant constraint on the implementation of the regional integration agenda in Africa. Regional integration was viewed as essential for the continent to realize its potential for sustainable and inclusive growth, to participate in a meaningful fashion in the global economy and to share the benefits of an increasingly interconnected global marketplace.

57. Attention was drawn to the importance of quality assurance, norms and standards as essential tools for the integration of Africa's industries in global value chains. They noted the urgent need to develop standards that were compatible with global requirements and identified macroeconomic stability and policy coherence as factors crucial to successful industrialization. Participants also observed that a stable and predictable economic environment offered an important incentive to investors and would help catalyse private sector competitiveness and industrial development in Africa.

C. Subregional perspectives

58. Following that discussion, the chairs of the various subregional intergovernmental committees of experts, which had met prior to the current meeting of the Conference of Ministers, presented the subregional perspectives on the theme of the Conference. At their meetings, the intergovernmental committees of experts had focused on the following themes:

- (a) Green economy in Central Africa;
- (b) Regional value chains for diversification in North Africa;
- (c) Natural resources as a lever for structural transformation in Southern Africa;
- (d) National champions, foreign direct investment and structural transformation in East Africa;
- (e) Food security in West Africa.

59. At its meeting, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Central Africa had focused on the necessary measures to achieve a green economy in Africa. To that end, the experts had called, among other measures, for increased financing for businesses and the integration of sustainable development in educational curricula. ECA and United Nations Industrial Development Organization had been requested to provide technical support to industries in respect of their green economy standards and practices.

60. At its meeting, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for North Africa had emphasized regional value chains for economic diversification and transformation. To that end, its recommendations had focused on developing value chains for industrialization and promoting regional cooperation. To accelerate structural transformation, the experts had recommended strengthening entrepreneurship; integrating green economy initiatives in national policies and frameworks; providing ECA with timely data for country profiles; setting targets for the African Union's Agenda 2063; and including migration in the post-2015 development agenda.

61. At its meeting, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa had focused on natural resources as a lever for structural transformation. The experts' recommendations had centred on the need to deploy revenues from natural resource exports for industrial development, value addition and beneficiation. Noting the importance of infrastructure for industrialization, they had underscored the need for infrastructure modernization and the implementation of the Southern Africa Development Community master plan for infrastructure development.

62. At its meeting, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for East Africa had focused on the issue of foreign direct investment and structural transformation in Africa. Experts had noted the lack of transformative development in the region and the need for an agriculture-led industrialization strategy. To promote direct investment, they had called for greater support for private companies to enhance their productivity and competitiveness. Emphasis had been placed on the role of development planning and the need to improve both the infrastructure and the business climate.

63. At its meeting, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for West Africa had focused on food security. The recommendations adopted by the experts had underscored the importance of pursuing an agriculture-led industrialization strategy and expressed concern about the low agricultural productivity. In their discussions the experts had also taken note of the subregion's progress in promoting the free movement of persons, but deplored the deteriorating security situation in the subregion. To improve access to development financing, experts had called for the harmonization of laws on illicit financial flows.

D. Recommendations

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

- (a) Pan-African institutions should play a key role in enhancing coordination between national, regional and continental levels for industrial policies;
- (b) Implementation of the recommendations of previous and current meetings should be monitored by requesting focal points in member States to provide feedback on progress made;
- (c) The private sector should be invited to subsequent meetings and high priority accorded to private sector empowerment and the development of public-private partnerships to accelerate long-term investments in industrial development;
- (d) High-quality infrastructure and assurance mechanisms, including norms, standards, certification and laboratories, should be developed and strengthened to boost the competitiveness of value-added products;
- (e) Industrial policies should be designed and implemented within a global growth strategy that promoted diversification and strengthened the links between agriculture, industry and services;
- (f) The range of financial instruments should be expanded and diversified and innovative financing mechanisms developed to support the development of African small and medium-sized enterprise, including the informal sector;
- (g) Regional cooperation should be strengthened through the development of regional value chains and free movement of people, goods and capital;
- (h) Investments should be made in human development, and education, training and research should be aligned with Africa's industrialization agenda.

VII. Presentation and discussion on the new continent-wide gender and development initiative [agenda item 7]

A. Presentation

65. The secretariat gave a presentation on the new continent-wide initiative on gender equality and women's empowerment, highlighting progress made by African countries in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment and outlining the key challenges that remained. Among those were violence against women, low education performance, particularly at secondary and tertiary

levels, unemployment, and others. The new initiative had been developed by ECA with the strategic objective of ensuring that the Commission's work had an impact on the life of every woman in Africa, irrespective of her geographical location, status, ethnic group or other considerations. The added value provided by the initiative consisted in its close alignment with the new vision for Africa's structural transformation.

66. The initiative had three interlinked components: first, the economic empowerment of women, through the promotion of women's entrepreneurship as part of a commodity-based industrialization process in Africa (in the areas of agriculture and extractive industries); second, women's rights; and third, equitable social services.

67. The modalities by which the initiative would be implemented included data collection and research; the development of country-specific studies to inform programmes; the use of existing tools developed by ECA, such as the African Gender and Development Index, in managing results and developing new tools and approaches; capacity development and tailored advisory services to member States based on their expressed needs; and the formation of a knowledge platform to share experience and good practices. Strategic partnerships with the African Union Commission, United Nations agencies, research institutions, universities and civil society organizations would also be an important dimension of the implementation of the initiative.

B. Discussion

68. In the ensuing discussion, participants commended the presenter on the highly informative and evidence-based presentation. Generally, it was agreed that the proposed initiative was very timely and relevant to the continent's current structural transformation agenda. The country experiences shared by participants suggested that African countries had made good strides in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in several areas of development, including employment.

69. Participants also highlighted progress in their countries in narrowing gender inequalities in incomes and paid work. They underscored the improved political participation of women, as reflected in the election of two women presidents in Africa, and voiced their satisfaction at the significant increase in the number of parliamentary seats occupied by women in several countries.

70. Concern was expressed, however, that, despite the commendable progress made by a number of African countries, gender inequality, including in access to and control over economic opportunities such as land, financial services and health-care, remained a critical policy issue. Where women's economic empowerment was concerned, participants agreed that women found themselves in a situation of double jeopardy, in that there was no plausible recognition or record of their contribution to society nor was the contribution valued.

71. In response, the presenter noted, with regard to employment and the disparity in salaries, that women by and large were clustered in low-paid jobs with few or no opportunities for advancement. She also pointed out that the initiative would be informed by the outcome of the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and by efforts to track the progress made by African countries in implementing the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action. Commending those countries that were performing well on their achievements, the Committee encouraged all countries to aim at 100 per cent gender parity in all sectors of Africa's transformative development and, in conclusion, expressed its endorsement of the initiative.

C. Recommendations

72. Following that discussion, the Committee endorsed the new continent-wide initiative for gender equality and women's empowerment formulated by ECA and requested that a progress report on its implementation should be submitted at the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance in March 2015. In the light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- (a) A strong monitoring and evaluation framework should be developed;
- (b) Gender-responsive data, including time-use data, should be systematically collected by national statistical offices, as a basis for the evaluation of women's contribution to Africa's transformative development and for the adoption of bold policy actions to tackle the constraints on women's participation;
- (c) Gender should be mainstreamed in all planning and policymaking processes at national levels;
- (d) The capacity of member States to mainstream gender into all sectors, national development plans and processes, including structural transformation, should be strengthened;
- (e) Studies should be carried out on the cost of gender inequalities, with a view to unleashing the potential of women's participation;
- (f) A progress report on the implementation of the initiative should be submitted to the Committee at the next session of the Conference of Ministers, in March 2015.

VIII. African regional integration index [agenda item 8]

A. Presentation

73. Under the agenda item, the secretariat gave a presentation on the African regional integration index. The presenter provided the background to the development of the index and recalled that Africa's regional integration aspirations were embodied in the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, the Abuja Treaty, the Constitutive Act of the African Union, and the treaties and protocols establishing the regional economic communities. Those agreements were anchored on the following principles and priorities: liberalization of trade; free movement of persons, goods, services and capital; development of regional infrastructure; development of productive capacities; and harmonization of macroeconomic and sectoral policies.

74. Considerable effort had been made towards regional integration in Africa under the political leadership of the African Union, which had adopted the Minimum Integration Programme and made a landmark decision to accelerate the establishment of a continental free trade area by an indicative date of 2017. In addition, continent-wide programmes had been developed, including the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. Despite those achievements, and the integration benchmarks contained in the Abuja Treaty, in general progress on regional integration remained slow. Moreover, the continent lacked a mechanism to track progress effectively. Consequently, the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of

Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance had called for the development of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, based on various indicators, to measure Africa's regional integration. It was in that context that the African Union Commission and ECA had begun work on developing a regional integration index.

75. Explaining the index, which was still in the early stages of development, the presenter said that it would have few indicators, be dynamic in terms of changing over time, and have a cross-country dimension. The eight areas of focus were free movement of persons; trade; statistics; politics and governance; industry; investment; energy; and infrastructure. An overall score and ranking would be computed for each African country, as well as an aggregate score for each regional economic community and for the continent as a whole. The process of developing the index would encompass the following steps: revising the methodology as appropriate using inputs from Governments; requesting data from the regional economic communities; verifying that data available at the ECA African Centre for Statistics were up-to-date; and collecting data not available from the regional economic communities from Governments.

B. Discussion

76. The participants welcomed the initiative to develop the index and commended ECA and the African Union Commission on their success in driving the process forwards. The issues raised during the discussion revolved around the choice of indicators to be used in constructing the index; the methodology and level of data collection (namely, subregional, regional and national); the frequency and channels for publishing the index; the benchmark for measuring progress in regional integration; and suggestions for additional indicators to be included in the index.

77. Concerning the choice of indicators, it was suggested that emphasis should be placed on measuring results in terms of outcomes and impacts (for instance, compliance with the provisions of an agreement as opposed to simply signing it) rather than inputs or activities. The participants noted that the proposed indicators covered different dimensions of regional integration, in particular institutional integration, and were mainly results-based. Different views were expressed on whether the index should evaluate and compare regional integration performance at the level of the regional economic communities or at that of member States. Nevertheless, all data would have to be collected at the national level since the score of each regional economic community would be an aggregation of the scores of its member States.

78. The participants underscored the need for the index to be a tool to evaluate the extent to which African countries meet regional integration objectives and targets. In that regard, it was proposed that the point of reference should be African countries. In other words, while it was appropriate to compare the performance of African countries or regional economic communities to one another, comparing them with regional organizations or countries in other regions of the world would provide little information on what progress was being made towards achieving Africa's regional integration objectives. Any index specific to the regional economic communities should be based on the various benchmarks of the Abuja Treaty and include a component on macroeconomic policy convergence.

79. It was suggested that an alternative to ranking countries or regional economic communities would be to compare their performance over time against baseline data, which would require the relevant data to be collected for the first year of the index.

80. The participants identified a number of areas that should be included in the index, such as macroeconomic convergence, the cultural aspects of regional integration, border delays, the volume and complexity of trade permits and other documents, and the rate of implementation of reforms. They also sought clarification on a number of issues related to data collection sources, instruments and frequency, and how and where the index would be published.

C. Recommendations

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

- (a) ECA and the African Union Commission should use the index to track the performance of African countries and regional economic communities with regard to regional integration, and report their findings to the appropriate policy organs;
- (b) National experts should be involved in developing the index. In particular, they should provide inputs on the design of the data collection instrument;
- (c) Member States and the regional economic communities should provide the data needed to construct the index and monitor progress;
- (d) The index should measure regional integration at both the level of the regional economic communities and the member States;
- (e) The benchmark for the index should be the best performers in Africa, rather than the world as a whole.

IX. Presentation and discussion on the report on South–South and triangular cooperation in support of Africa post-2015 [agenda item 9]

A. Presentation

82. The representative of Guinea presented the document on proposed measures and arrangements for the implementation of decision 465 (XX) of the twentieth ordinary session of the African Union Assembly of Heads and State and Government, by which the Assembly had established the South–South and Triangular Coalition in support of the African post-2015 development agenda. In that regard, he outlined the terms of reference of the Coalition, including its mandate, composition and functioning. He proposed that the timetable for implementation be modified in the light of the delays experienced. He highlighted the need for the technical assistance to prepare a logical framework for the institutional support project and organize a validation workshop in June 2014. He also outlined the main recommendations contained in the document.

B. Discussion

83. In the ensuing discussion, one participant asked what rules had been used to choose the African members of the executive committee of the Coalition.

84. The representative of Guinea explained that, regarding the issue of rotation, there had been an omission and that the African members of the executive committee would rotate every three years according to geographical representation.

C. Recommendations

85. Following the discussion, the Committee of Experts adopted the report and recommended that the decision be implemented.

X. Discussion of *The Cost of Hunger in Africa: social and economic impact of child undernutrition in Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda* [agenda item 10]

A. Presentation

86. The secretariat gave a presentation based on the document entitled “The cost of hunger in Africa: social and economic impact of child undernutrition in Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda” (E/ECA/COE/33/9-AU/CAMEF/EXP/9(IX)). The presenter described the roles of the main implementing agencies (African Union, NEPAD, ECA and World Food Programme) and highlighted the mandate to undertake the study that had been received in 2011 from the fifth Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance.

87. The results from the four first-phase countries – Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda – were presented, which revealed that 69–82 per cent of all cases of child undernutrition were not properly treated; stunted children achieved 0.2–1.2 years less in school education; 40–67 per cent of working-age populations had suffered from stunting as children; and the economic impact of child undernutrition was estimated at between 1.9 and 16.5 per cent of countries’ GDP.

88. The presentation concluded by highlighting the next steps – particularly the capacity-building and monitoring and evaluation needs in each of the countries that had finalized the study, the ongoing processes for the second-phase countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi and Rwanda) and third-phase countries (Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya and Mauritania), and the implementation of ARISE 2025, Africa’s Renewed Initiative for Stunting Elimination, which was designed to foster political will to bring the levels of child stunting and underweight down, to 10 per cent and 5 per cent respectively, by the year 2025.

B. Discussion

89. In the ensuing discussion, delegates from three of the four countries participating in the first phase – Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda – shared their countries’ experiences, highlighting the renewed efforts that the study had generated in their respective countries. These had included (a) integration into regional and global initiatives such as Scaling Up Nutrition; (b) stronger multisectoral engagement, beyond the health sector, for example in agriculture, education and social protection; (c) giving higher priority in national development plans to the elimination of stunting; (d) utilization of the results by development partners, as a credible source of data; and (e) enhanced national advocacy capacity for nutrition-specific interventions.

90. Sharing some experiences from Latin America, one participant underscored the relevance of South–South cooperation, which had facilitated the implementation of the study in Africa, and highlighted the importance of the study’s results for generating an agenda for social inclusion and structural transformation. He noted the challenges faced in both Latin America and Africa in obtaining data for the study – an observation that was made repeatedly during the discussion. He also noted the mutual and reinforcing link between economic and social growth, and encouraged the

participants to take advantage of the evidence generated by the study to initiate and strengthen the necessary programmes.

C. Recommendations

91. In the light of the discussion, the Committee made the following recommendations:
- (a) Further research should be conducted on the causes of undernutrition, in order to ensure a comprehensive approach to tackling the issue;
 - (b) The elimination of stunting should be prioritized as an indicator for inclusive development;
 - (c) The study in the remaining countries should be completed, with a view to expanding the pool of available evidence to inform policymaking.

XI. Presentation of statutory issues [agenda item 11]

A. African Union Commission statutory issues

1. Presentation

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

(a) Report of the extraordinary meeting of experts of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance

93. At their extraordinary meeting, held from 21 to 24 March 2014 in Abuja, the experts had discussed the statute and annexes of the African Monetary Fund, reports on the feasibility study on the creation of an African integration fund and on the establishment of a pan-African stock exchange, and proposals on the implementation of the recommendations of the report on alternative sources of financing the African Union. The report was being presented for the Committee's information. Participants who wished to make comments on the report were requested to submit those comments to the secretariat so that they could be reflected in the report to the Conference of Ministers.

(b) Progress report on Agenda 2063

94. Recalling the objective of the Agenda, namely to translate into reality the continent's vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena, the secretariat invited participants to provide comments and contributions to the report by mid-April, to be submitted to the African Union Assembly at its twenty-third ordinary session in July 2014 for consideration and adoption.

(c) Progress report on boosting intra-Africa trade and continental free trade area initiatives, resource mobilization for the accelerated industrial development of Africa and the Africa Mining Vision, and financing the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa

95. In the progress report, the secretariat drew attention in particular to challenges faced in the implementation of the accelerated industrial development of Africa and called upon member States to allocate adequate funding for the related projects. Where financing the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa was concerned, details were given of the main projects to be implemented and the infrastructure gaps which the continent still needed to fill.

(d) Postal financial services

96. The secretariat recalled the outcome of a study on strategies to unleash the potential of postal networks to increase access to financial services for low-income populations in Africa, prepared in response to Executive Council decisions 435 (XIII) and 545 (XVI) on the African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Communications and Information Technologies. In several African countries considerable progress had been made in the provision of financial services through the post offices.

(e) Evidential base for industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa: perspectives by African statisticians; and agricultural transformation for an industrialized Africa

97. On the issue of agricultural transformation for an industrialized Africa, the secretariat recalled that, in recognition of the key role that agriculture could play in achieving goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme had been endorsed by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its regular session in July 2003 in Maputo. Member States committed themselves to allocating at least 10 per cent of their annual budget to agriculture in an effort to achieve at least 6 per cent annual growth in their agricultural GDP.

2. Discussion

98. In the ensuing discussion, participants noted the importance of agriculture in reducing poverty and ensuring food and nutrition security in Africa. The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme was recognized as an initiative that could help achieve that goal. Concerns were voiced, however, about the capability of the African Union Commission to follow up implementation of the programme in member States that had not yet signed the Compact.

99. Participants took note of the report on the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and noted the financing gap. Concerns were also raised, however, about the amount of funding required by the various continental initiatives. They noted the importance of postal services in facilitating financial services that supported industrialization in Africa and supported the recommendations on the setting up of postal financial services, which could fill the gap in access to financial services, especially in rural areas. They requested the Commission to undertake further studies on postal financial services and their impact on remittances.

100. Participants expressed concerns about the proposed source of financing the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa, given that member States were already having difficulty in meeting their contribution commitments to their respective regional organizations. On the issue of agriculture, they considered that the transformation of the agricultural sector was key to the reduction of poverty and unemployment and called for particular support for such industries as agro-processing, textiles, energy and pharmaceuticals. On the issue of mining, they also stressed the

need to consider long-term trends and environmental implications and for the African Union Commission to find ways of engaging the countries where mining exploration was taking place.

101. In conclusion, they called upon the African Union Commission to conduct a separate study to identify possible options of financing the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa and observed that such financing options should be based on fairness and development in the mining sectors concerned, and that such a study would be reviewed by a meeting of experts. Noting that a clear timeline of 2017 had been set for the realization of the continental free trade area, they cautioned that strengthened efforts were needed to meet that target, in view of the progress made to date.

B. Economic Commission for Africa statutory issues

1. Presentation

102. The secretariat presented a number of statutory reports related to the work of ECA, including the following: (a) annual report on the work of the Commission, including follow-up on the decisions and recommendations of the sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance; (b) draft proposed ECA strategic framework and biennial programme plan for 2016–2017; (c) ECA country profile strategy; (d) progress report on the work of the United Nations African Institute for Economic Development and Planning; (e) report on United Nations system-wide support for the African Union and its NEPAD programme.

103. The Committee took note of the 2014 ECA annual report, which highlighted the main programme activities and achievements of the ECA secretariat from April 2013 to March 2014, including the follow-up to the outcomes and decisions of the sixth Conference of Ministers, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2013.

104. ECA had made significant progress on several fronts during the year. Among its notable achievements were the publication and launch of several important reports and publications that had helped to shape policy in various areas, including the Economic Report on Africa; Assessing Regional Integration in Africa; the third edition of the African Governance Report; and the 2013 African Statistical Yearbook, a joint publication of ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank. Other important achievements included the full implementation of the reform measures, which had resulted in a stronger and more relevant organization with better quality products and services that were better delivered for greater results and impact. ECA had also made a significant contribution to formulation of the African Union's Agenda 2063, the African development goals and the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda.

105. Regarding the draft proposed ECA strategic framework and programme plan for the biennium 2016–2017, it was noted that the overall objective of the plan 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 and the African Union's Agenda 2063. The strategic framework was informed by the new strategic orientation of ECA, which had been endorsed by the Conference of Ministers, the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the United National General Assembly in 2013.

106. The strategy for implementing the 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.

107. On the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, the Committee noted with satisfaction the outstanding achievements of the Institute in 2013–2014, which had been made possible by the repositioning of the Institute as the designated arm for all ECA training activities and the corresponding transfer of funds to the Institute. The Institute's performance had also been boosted by the strategic partnerships that it had developed with a number of learning and research institutions across Africa. Key milestones attained in that regard included 37 short courses organized by the Institute, both at its headquarters in Dakar and at other locations across Africa, benefiting a total of 758 officials from 48 African countries, 33 per cent of whom were women.

108. Looking ahead, it was noted that a major challenge for the Institute would be how to take advantage of the huge investment made in infrastructure, in particular information and communication technology, and measures to enable the Institute to deliver training courses in Arabic, in collaboration with the Institute of National Planning of Egypt, and also in Portuguese. The Institute was expanding its range of courses – including, for the first time, on-line courses – in response to increased demand from member States.

109. The presentation on United Nations system-wide support for the African Union and NEPAD focused on activities in support of the decisions of the African Union Assembly of African Heads of State and Government; 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 ECA.

110. With regard to the implementation of the decisions of the African Union Assembly, ECA continued to support the formulation of a new 50-year vision for Africa, the African Union's Agenda 2063; it had undertaken a study on domestic resource mobilization in Africa in collaboration with the NEPAD Agency and other bodies; and had commissioned a background study on the status of illicit financial flows in Africa. In addition, the United Nations system provided extensive capacity-building support to the African Union and the regional economic communities in a wide range of areas.

111. The presentation on the ECA country profiles focused on the objectives, structure and scope of the country profiles, which had been designed to produce and disseminate country-specific and region-specific policy analyses and recommendations for economic transformation that would promote sustainable and inclusive growth, strengthen regional integration, promote development planning and economic governance, and mitigate potential risks. The profiles needed to be homogenous in structure and yet flexible enough to take into account national and subregional specificities. Tracking the different sets of forecasts provided by different organizations and rating the sources of the data according to their reliability, regularity, availability and access would provide useful data for policymakers and would enable ECA to identify the specific capacity-building activities required to improve data quality. Collaboration with member States was also key to the success of the initiative. In that regard, it was envisaged that memorandums of understanding would be signed with national statistical offices for data provision, capacity-building, policy analysis and other country-specific areas of collaboration.

2. Discussion

112. In the ensuing discussion, participants commended ECA on its achievements over the past year and the efforts that it had made in preparing a comprehensive strategic framework and programme plan for 2016–2017. Clarification was sought on a number of issues, including governance, capacity-building, development cooperation, statistics and the proposed ECA country profiles. Attention was drawn to the problem of corruption, which continued to hamper development plans on the continent, and to the need for the transparent management of development funds and measures to ensure that corrupt officials were held accountable for their actions. Participants commended the illicit financial flow initiative and stressed that it should focus on tracking and repatriating illicit funds to Africa. It was agreed that Africa's development process must be inclusive, in particular by ensuring the active participation of women in the planning and implementation process. In that context, successful efforts by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to increase the number of women participants in its training programme should help overcome the current gender imbalance in Africa's development planning. Another major obstacle to development policies in Africa was posed by the inadequate capacity of government officials to plan and implement such policies. Accordingly, participants commended ECA on its capacity-building activities and called for measures to publicize those activities among potential beneficiaries in member States, using the designated focal points in each country.

113. Noting current efforts to enhance domestic resource mobilization in Africa and the success of some countries in that endeavour, participants encouraged ECA to facilitate the sharing of experiences among member States. They applauded the close collaboration between ECA and other United Nations agencies and regional commissions in implementing projects in support of Africa and welcomed the successful application by the United Nations of the "Delivering as one" approach in its support of the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and member States.

114. On the proposed ECA strategic framework for the 2016–2017 biennium, the Committee made a number of important observations, including the need to ensure that the programme included work on South–South cooperation and the need to strengthen the subregional dimension of the Commission's work through its five subregional offices and continued support for the regional economic communities recognized by the African Union, including the Community of Sahel-Saharan States, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic Community of West African States, the East African Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Southern African Development Community and the Arab Maghreb Union. In the light of its comments and observations, the Committee endorsed the proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan of ECA for 2016–2017, which would be transmitted to the Committee for Programme Coordination along with the Committee's comments in June 2014.

115. Participants commended ECA on its country profiles initiative and suggested that the project could start with a pilot phase involving only a few countries and limited to a few issues, such as macroeconomic policy analysis. It was noted, however, that the preparation of country profiles would have financial implications and required the support of the concerned countries. Some concern was expressed that Africa continued to rely on external sources to fund its work on statistics: the continent should be able to produce its own data and, to that end, member States should allocate adequate resources to statistics, rather than depending on donors for funding. In that context, participants urged support for such important ventures as the Young Statisticians initiative

and called for the provision of continuous learning opportunities to African statisticians. In that regard, they welcomed the initiative of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to expand its resources for training on statistics and to strengthen its collaboration with major statistical training institutions on the continent.

3. Recommendations

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

- (a) The current initiative to combat illicit financial flows in Africa should place emphasis on tracking and returning the illicit funds to Africa;
- (b) ECA should improve the dissemination of information on its capacity-building activities, in particular training programmes undertaken by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning;
- (c) ECA should facilitate the exchange of views and sharing of experiences among member States and regional economic communities on domestic resource mobilization in Africa;
- (d) Member States should cooperate with ECA and provide access to the necessary information for developing country profiles;
- (e) The African Institute for Economic Development and Planning should continue to provide training on statistics to member States.

XII. Any other business [agenda item 12]

111. No issues were raised under the item.

XIII. Consideration and adoption of the draft report of the Committee of Experts and the draft resolutions [agenda item 13]

117. Under the item, the Committee considered the draft report of its meeting (as contained in document E/ECA/COE/33/L-AU/CAMEF/EXP/Draft/Rpt(IX)) together with thirteen draft resolutions for consideration and adoption by 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. Several delegations made comments and observations and proposed amendments to the report as well as the draft resolutions. After extensive discussions on some of the resolutions, the Committee unanimously adopted the report, including the draft resolutions as amended. The resolutions, as amended by the Committee are attached to the present report for consideration and adoption by the Conference of Ministers.

XIV. Closure of the meeting [agenda item 14]

118. Closing remarks were made by Mr. Mothae Maruping, Mr. Hamdok and Mr. Nwankwo. They all expressed their gratitude to delegates for their hard work and contribution to the discussions during the meeting. They also applauded the strong partnership between the African Union Commission and ECA, as evidenced by the successful organization of the meeting. Finally, they commended the experts for their professionalism in formulating recommendations on important issues to be considered by their ministers for approval.

119. The Chair then declared the meeting closed.