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Introduction

1. The present annual report of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) covers the period from April 2016 to March 2017, and has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Commission's terms of reference. The report includes ECA resolutions that were recommended for adoption at the special meeting of the Permanent Representatives of the member States to the Economic Commission for Africa, held on 12 June 2017 in Addis Ababa.

I. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

2. Following the adjournment of the tenth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in Dakar, 23-25 March 2017, the Commission convened a special meeting of the Permanent Representatives of the member States to the Economic Commission for Africa on 12 June 2017, to deliberate on two statutory issues: the Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa (covering the period April 2016 to March 2017); and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. In addition, the draft resolutions for the proposed programme budget were considered for adoption.

3. The Permanent Representatives of the member States to the Commission adopted the following resolutions, which are presented to ECOSOC for consideration and endorsement:

(a) Proposed programme of work and proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018–2019, Programme 15, Section 18;

(b) Proposed programme of work and proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018–2019, Section 23 Regular programme of technical cooperation;

(c) Proposed programme of work and proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018–2019, Programme 9, Section 11.

4. The report of the special meeting of the Permanent Representatives of the member States to the Economic Commission for Africa is appended to the present report as annex I, and annex II presents the three resolutions adopted by the Permanent Representatives.

II. Work of the Commission

A. Activities of the Subprogrammes of the Commission

1. Macroeconomic Policy Division

5. The subprogramme aims to contribute to the acceleration of Africa's economic transformation through the design, implementation and monitoring of development plans, policies and strategies for better economic management. The work of the subprogramme is organized around the following focus areas: forecasting macroeconomic and other trends; development planning, global and

regional development frameworks; development financing and private sector development; illicit financial flows; and economic governance and public sector management.

6. During the period under review, ECA produced the 2016 edition of the Economic Report on Africa: Greening Africa's industrialization. The key messages and policy recommendations of the report were widely disseminated at launches in a number of cities across Africa, including Abuja (in collaboration with the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency), Accra (in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency), Addis Ababa, Khartoum and Lusaka (in collaboration with the Zambia Economic Association). The report was also launched at the annual meeting of the Ethiopian Economic Association and the annual regional meeting of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

7. ECA also produced the 2017 edition of the Economic Report on Africa: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation. The 2017 Report builds on previous editions, which emphasize the need for developmental States and development plans to foster 'greening' Africa's industrialization and structural transformation. Such industrialization and transformation benefit from the continent's resource endowments to promote commodity-based industrialization and embrace dynamic industrial policy frameworks underpinned by innovative institutions, effective processes and flexible mechanisms. As in previous years, the key messages and recommendations of the Report are to be widely disseminated through launches in a number of major cities within and outside of Africa.

8. During the period under review, ECA contributed an analysis of Africa's regional outlook to the 2017 edition (in preparation) of the annual report, World Economic Situation and Prospects, which is published jointly by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Tourism Organization and the five Regional Commissions of the United Nations. The 2017 report provides an overview of recent global economic performance and short-term prospects for the world economy and of some key global economic policy and development issues.

9. ECA continued its contribution to knowledge generation and sharing on the issues of development planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. ECA supported the generation of evidence through studies and reports, including Planning for Africa's Development; and a discussion panel on the institutional framework for adaptation and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme, published the 2016 MDGs to Agenda 2063/SDGs Transition Report. The report was officially launched in New York, Addis Ababa, Brazzaville, Kigali and Lusaka, and provided a rigorous assessment of progress shown by Africa in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It also served as a basis for policy discussion, peer learning and advocacy. More importantly, the report provided the impetus for strong and coordinated action by Africa's top decision makers towards an integrated and coherent approach to sustainable development in Africa.

10. The subprogramme has designed a toolkit to integrate the goals, targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda and those of the African Union Agenda 2063, and is designing a web-based application for use at the national level for monitoring the performance of the two Agendas. The 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 provide the framework for member States to monitor and to report on goals, targets and indicators relevant to sustainable development; and help avoid duplication of efforts.

11. ECA also continued engagement in upstream policy dialogue and influencing policy decisions on planning, the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063; provided insights and knowledge in areas of economic development and structural transformation. Collaboration with the Ethiopia National Planning Commission on design of long-term development plans and participation in regional forums were strengthened. The solution exchange platform brings together Planning Officers to discuss topics on development planning.

12. The subprogramme influenced policy on private sector development and mobilization of domestic and external resources for development. The study on enhancing local entrepreneurship in Africa aims to encourage policymakers to review and adopt new entrepreneurship priorities in enhancing African entrepreneurs to play a more active role in the structural transformation processes. The subprogramme also produced a study on development financing in Africa. The study examined the role of development finance in structural transformation and inclusive growth in Africa and how finance should be mobilized to address the main priorities in the continent. The subprogramme prepared a technical paper on a transformative agenda for monetary and exchange rate policies, debt sustainability in Africa and appropriate policy responses. The paper was presented at the Caucus meeting of African Governors of Central Banks.

13. ECA facilitated the exchange of ideas and promoted research through the eleventh annual African Economic Conference 2016, held in Abuja in December 2016. The topic of the Conference was: Feeding Africa: Towards Agro-Allied Industrialization for Inclusive Growth, and was jointly organized with the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme. The Conference drew 180 participants, including ministers, government officials, researchers and development practitioners from Africa and beyond.

14. With regard to economic governance, the subprogramme undertook a study on Effective Regulatory Systems for Service Delivery and Structural Transformation in Africa: Infrastructure Development and the Case of Power Pools. The focus of the study was on the importance of power pools as low-hanging fruits in the quest to enhance energy access in Africa. Improved access to energy services is crucial not only for the attainment of health and education outcomes, but also for reducing the cost of doing business, unlocking economic potential, creating jobs and speeding up the structural transformation of the continent. The study notes that energy potential in Africa, especially renewable energy, is enormous, yet only a fraction of it is being currently employed. The study also concluded that power pools remain one effective mechanism for enhancing energy security in Africa.

15. Through a number of high profile launches of the African Governance Report IV, ECA facilitated policy dialogues and promoted research on the issue of corruption. The launches involved ECA staff from various divisions and subregional offices as well as representatives from research institutions. It brought a much-needed synergy between knowledge generation and delivery to the Commission.

16. The subprogramme launched the process of producing the African Governance Report V on Natural Resource Governance and Domestic Resource Mobilization for Structural Transformation in Africa. To be finalized in late 2017, the report will have a critical role in raising awareness and facilitating consensus-building on African priorities for financing for development. It will build on the momentum generated by the third International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015.

17. During the period under review, the subprogramme continued to build partnerships and strategic alliances for good economic governance on the African continent. In that regard, it delivered a lecture at the International Anti-Corruption Agency Regional Summer Academy – Eastern Africa on measuring corruption in Eastern Africa. ECA also participated at the round table: “Political will and the fight against corruption in Africa”. In total, 60 participants from 16 African countries (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) took part. The majority of participants came from the public sector, working in anticorruption agencies, governments, and ministries of justice, economy, or finance.

18. On the regional programme for technical cooperation, the subprogramme worked with the Office of the ECA Deputy Executive Secretary for Knowledge Delivery to review and restructure the country profiles concept note around structural transformation, which will be implemented from 2017. The subprogramme also collaborated with the Capacity Development Division of ECA to provide advisory services to the Government of the Gambia through a macroeconomic policy dialogue for senior policy officials in the Gambia.

19. With respect to the United Nations Development Account, implementation of the ECA-wide forecasting model for Africa commenced and is expected to be rolled out to the rest of the continent in the coming years. The forecasting model of ECA has been formulated and further refined during the period under review. The model aims to enhance policy development and planning among African countries. Specifically, it is being customized initially and adapted in six pilot countries, namely: Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. ECA participated in a workshop in Accra on the Ghana macroeconomic forecasting model to ensure maximization of synergies and alignment of the model for Ghana with the ECA prototype.

2. Regional integration and trade

20. The subprogramme provides policy-oriented research on leveraging policies on investment, regional integration, land, agriculture, food security, energy, infrastructure, trade, and industrialization for the continent’s development and structural transformation. The subprogramme also carried out some activities aimed at implementing and mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 into national strategic frameworks, action plans and programmes.

21. In the area of investment, ECA launched a study on investment policies and bilateral investment treaties in Africa at a side event during the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, in April 2016. The study, which has influenced policy dialogue on the African experience with bilateral investment treaties, raised the need for existing national and regional investment regulations to consider reviewing and renegotiating bilateral investment treaties to take into consideration national development priorities and strategies; proper coordination between the government policymakers and the private sector players in negotiating new bilateral investment treaties; and reviewing the existing investor-State dispute system with a view to considering national and regional legal recourse, in addition to the existing international arbitration mechanisms. Various dissemination activities were held to support regional policy processes on investment and raise awareness on the main policy challenges highlighted by the study through a number of forums, including in a meeting organized by the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community to review the Southern African Development Community Bilateral Investment Treaties Template.

22. As part of sensitizing private equity players on their role in promoting growth and development in Africa, ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, organized a side event during the African Investment Forum, which took place in Ethiopia, in October 2015. The side event brought together representatives of selected African small and medium enterprises and private equity players to discuss, among other things, how small and medium enterprises can tap into private equity funds to grow their businesses. The policy discussions have further guided ECA work in support of facilitating finance for small- and medium-sized enterprises in support of the structural transformation in Africa.

23. Following a request from the Government of Namibia to the Executive Secretary, ECA prepared a paper entitled, “Towards robust trade and investment policies”, which was presented during the Windhoek Foreign Policy Conference. The paper provided input for policy discussions on the development of industrial sectors in Namibia, which have brought improvements, including a boost in exports in agriculture and fisheries, and increased trade and foreign direct investment.

24. On industrial development, ECA responded to requests by African member States and regional economic communities for technical assistance on development of industrial policy, including by Guinea, Senegal, Swaziland and the Southern African Development Community. Research was completed on reviewing industrial policy landscape in Africa and on the pharmaceutical sector in Africa. The study found a number of challenges that Africa still faces on industrialization, which range from a poor business environment, to limited stakeholder inclusion in policymaking, to lack of adequate infrastructure and limited access to finance, among others. The report also highlighted good practices and policy recommendations for policymakers in Africa. A research study was commissioned by ECA, the topic of which was fostering tourism growth in Africa: the aviation and tourism policy convergence. The study identifies a number of factors relating to an unfavourable regulatory environment that constrains the growth of the two industries and proposes a collective and effective strategy to address them. Such research products continue to serve as a reference point for African countries in terms of their industrial development trajectory. ECA will use the findings of the studies to engage policymakers and stakeholders involved in industrial policymaking.

25. Collaborative partnerships enabled the subprogramme to achieve significant results. The fruitful partnership between ECA and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the University of Johannesburg culminated in the launch of a joint two-year Master of Philosophy Degree programme in industrial policy. As a result of collaboration with the African Union Commission, member States now have a better understanding of the status of implementation of the African road safety action plan as well as the strategic issues that need urgent intervention, notably, the lack of updated and accurate data. ECA is in the process of developing a comprehensive status report on the implementation of the action plan. ECA, in partnership with the African Union Commission and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency delivered a United Nations Development Account project on a biofuel programme for household and transport sectors, which resulted in a better understanding of the role of bioenergy in the energy plans of African countries.

26. ECA made a significant contribution by preparing working papers on industrial policy and structural transformation to a high-level meeting on the topic: Africa and Latin America at a crossroads, which focused on addressing structural transformation in the new global landscape. The meeting reflects cooperation among ECA, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

Development within the Advisory Board on providing a better understanding of policy challenges in the realm of production transformation and development.

27. In 2016, ECA developed a methodology on localization of energy technologies to boost the continent's manufacturing potential. The renewable energy technologies that are selected are those with long value chains and that potentially play a significant role in rural development, namely, bioenergy (biomass), solar photovoltaic and small hydropower technologies. The methodology can be used to boost manufacturing potential in Africa. In that regard, ECA undertook activities to promote the uptake of the methodology by member States.

28. On agriculture, ECA organized a workshop to validate the continent wide cluster baseline assessment studies that identified and prioritized agricultural regional value chains and relevant agribusiness and agro-industrial clustering possibilities to boost investment and trade within Africa in intermediate as well as highly valued food products. ECA collaborated with the African Union Commission in validating the continental agribusiness strategy and implementation plan, and in developing a structure and business plan for a continental apex agribusiness body. It also provided inputs for the development of a framework for boosting trade within Africa and advancing the implementation of the Malabo Declaration. The implementation of the continental agribusiness strategy and its implementation plan will create a platform for stronger engagement of the private sector for agribusiness development on the continent.

29. ECA organized a high-level symposium on jointly implementing agri-based industrialization and regional value chains for the transformation of Africa in December 2016. Through the high-level symposium, ECA was able to influence the policy discourse on transformative agriculture in Africa. The findings and recommendations of the symposium provided ECA and the African Union Commission with inputs to guide preparations for the launch of the forthcoming agribusiness strategy and regional policy frameworks that address the needs of all relevant stakeholders.

30. The subprogramme prioritized the work on supporting the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area by 2017. Through the African Trade Policy Centre, ECA played a significant role in developing the template agreement for the establishment of the Continental Free Trade Area, as mandated by the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Kigali in June 2016. The template is a significant input to the Continental Free Trade Area negotiation process and covers trade in goods, trade in services and investment. The African Trade Policy Centre also provided technical papers that informed the strategic- and policy-oriented discussions of the African Union Ministers of Trade on the Continental Free Trade Area, the "post-AGOA options" (referring to the African Growth and Opportunity Act), investment, economic partnership agreements, Brexit and wider regional trade agreements. ECA continues to engage actively in the Continental Task Force on the Continental Free Trade Area and thereby to support the African Union Commission and member States in the Continental Free Trade Area negotiations.

31. The African Trade Policy Centre brought together experts from ECA, the regional economic communities, private sector, academia, development partners, and the African Union Commission to discuss the boosting intra-African trade action plan, current monitoring and evaluation efforts, and the way forward for establishing a consistent framework for the tracking of progress on the continental priorities identified in the boosting intra-African trade initiative. The meeting endorsed the development of a regional strategy for tracking key indicators, which builds on the work already done by the

regional economic communities and other stakeholders, and sets up a clear line of accountability for reporting. The regional strategies will assist regional economic communities in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the boosting intra-African trade initiative at the regional level.

32. The report, “Assessing Regional Integration VII on Innovation, Competitiveness and Regional Integration”, was finalized and published in March 2016. It examines how the three elements are linked, and also sheds light on the issue of enhancing innovation and competitiveness in the context of development policy and strategy in Africa. In addition to its availability on the website, the report was launched in many ECA subregional offices in an effort to ensure its wide distribution.¹

33. In July 2016, the African Trade Policy Centre launched one of the flagship reports of ECA, the Africa integration index, in an effort to provide data on the status and progress of regional integration on the continent. The index seeks to provide a means for tracking progress in terms of the different dimensions of regional integration, including trade, movement of people, productive capacity, monetary and financial integration, and infrastructure. The index provides a tool for facilitating evidence-based technical discussions and policy dialogues on regional integration in Africa.

34. Analytical research to inform policymaking has continued with key publications on mega regional trade agreements, trade and climate change, and trade and the 2030 Agenda. Research on the mega regional trade agreements illuminated the link between mega regional trade agreements and continental integration programmes, in particular the Continental Free Trade Area. The research outputs and other materials developed by the African Trade Policy Centre have also been used as training material in training sessions targeted at African trade experts and policymakers. In 2016, the African Trade Policy Centre delivered training on trade and gender as well as on trade policy modelling and analysis.

35. ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, African Development Bank and African Export-Import Bank (known as Afreximbank), organized the inaugural session of Africa Trade Week 2016. Africa Trade Week is a new pan-African platform for advancing intra-African trade dialogue among different stakeholder groups. Africa Trade Week brought together ministers of trade, regional economic communities, chief executive officers and executives from the private sector, development banks, and senior representatives from civil society, academia, international development agencies and the media to discuss a course on how African economies can be transformed through intra-regional trade and trade facilitation. Going forward, Africa Trade Week, as a multi-stakeholder platform to discuss topical trade policy issues in Africa, will assist in fostering a common understanding of current issues among the different stakeholders involved in trade policymaking.

36. In the context of land governance, ECA undertook an initiative focusing on land policy. In collaboration with the African Union Commission, ECA launched the implementation of the 30 per cent target for documented land rights for women by 2025, which was endorsed in 2015 by the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment. The 30 per cent target supports efforts of member States to economically empower women in Africa for an inclusive transformation of African economies. The land policy initiative also developed a programme to support efforts of member States and regional economic communities, namely, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Intergovernmental Authority

¹ The report is available from <http://www.uneca.org/publications/assessing-regional-integration-africa-vii>.

on Development to integrate land tenure and governance concerns in agriculture strategies and investment plans, with a view to boosting investments in agriculture. Under the same programme, a number of ministries or national-level authorities responsible for land are reforming policies and programmes to better address challenges that constrain the agriculture sector to expedite investments and achieve inclusive agricultural and economic transformation. The ministries or national-level authorities mentioned are from 17 member States.²

37. The initiative on land policy assisted traditional leaders to establish a continental Forum for African Traditional Authorities, which focused on the enhancement of the positive engagement of traditional authorities and on encouraging responsible practices to boost land-based investments, while ensuring benefits for local communities. The Forum for African Traditional Authorities will also promote women's land rights, in particular efforts to achieve the African Union target of 30 per cent allocation of documented land rights to women.

38. The initiative strengthened the capacities of universities and institutions of higher learning through the establishment of a network of excellence on land governance in Africa and Guidelines for the Development of Curricula on Land Governance to ensure land professionals respond better to realities across the continent and address the needs of government, traditional leaders, and the private sector. An example of the success of the initiative is the first round scholarship programme through Bahir Dar University (Ethiopia), Ardhi University (the United Republic of Tanzania), and the Namibian University of Science and Technology. The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, and the institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (University of the Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa) were able to provide short-term training sessions on land governance.

3. Innovations, technologies and management of natural resources in Africa

39. The subprogramme on innovations, technologies and management of natural resources in Africa continued to promote the adoption and implementation of new initiatives and, consequently, improved its research, policy development, analytical work and capacity-building in the areas of natural resources management, climate change and new technologies and innovations, with a view to supporting the advancement of economic and social transformation in Africa.

40. Under the promotion of technology and innovation for structural transformation, the subprogramme is supporting the formulation of science and technology policy in the Republic of South Sudan, and information and communication technology policy in Guinea-Bissau.

41. In collaboration with the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency, the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa, the subprogramme facilitated the third dialogue on "cities as innovation hubs for Africa's transformation". Given the interest generated by that dialogue, the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa and ECA are currently exploring the design and delivery of a training course for officials involved in science, technology and information, and representatives of municipalities and planning agencies. The training would focus on how African cities can serve as

²The member States are Angola, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, the Niger, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

drivers of innovation and entrepreneurship to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

42. Furthermore, ECA organized the Biomedical Engineering Innovators School Programme in Cairo. Currently, over 600 students are enrolled in biomedical engineering programmes at participating universities across the continent inspired by the initiative.

43. Different initiatives are also being implemented under the cluster to support knowledge generation, which include: (i) research on innovation hubs in Africa; (ii) a field survey of national innovation comprehensiveness and innovation in the informal sector, undertaken in Cameroon, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe; (iii) a study on emerging issues in information and communication technologies was undertaken, partly to inform policymaking in Africa and the regional review of the World Summit on Information Society; and (iv) empirical research on innovations in medical devices and on financing of research and development in Africa.

44. With regard to its work related to Green Economy and Natural Resources, the subprogramme in collaboration with other ECA subprogrammes (Capacity Development, Regional Integration and Trade, Social Development Policy, Statistics, and the Subregional Office for North Africa) and the Executive Direction and Management, together with the Government of Egypt, the African Union Commission, and the African Development Bank, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) convened the second session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Cairo, 17–19 May 2016), in preparation for the 2016 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development provided a platform for member States to engage in a dialogue on the implementation and a follow-up of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The Forum strengthened member States' understanding of and capacity with respect to the policy approaches to ensure effective inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the two agendas. Participants reached consensus and adopted key messages comprising policy actions and measures needed to advance inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the two mutually reinforcing transformative agendas.

45. The subprogramme also carried out two studies and organized two ad hoc expert group meetings on: (i) realizing the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa through an inclusive green economy. The report seeks to enhance understanding and appreciation of an inclusive green economy as a vehicle for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and related Agenda 2063 goals; and (ii) on macroeconomic frameworks for an inclusive green economy in Africa. The report brings focus to the mutually reinforcing nature of macroeconomic and inclusive green economy policies and supports the paradigm shift to a sustainable economic transformation. The expert group meetings held were to review the report of the two studies: dissemination of the report will follow once it is finalized.

46. Policy-relevant information was distilled from knowledge products produced by the subprogramme and packaged in the form of policy briefs. During the reporting period, the following six policy briefs were produced: (i) inclusive green economy policies for structural transformation in Africa (one policy brief); and (ii) achieving sustainable development in Africa through inclusive green growth by leveraging the potential in agriculture, energy, industry and trade sectors, and harnessing ecosystem goods and services (five policy briefs).

47. Furthermore, ECA has continued its support for member States in addressing the challenges of climate change in key development sectors. Its assistance to that end included providing guidance and technical support to member States in the context of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States accelerated modalities of action pathway.

48. At national and subregional levels, ECA continued to support the small island developing States of Africa (Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Seychelles) in numerical weather prediction and early warning systems. In Liberia, a climate change strategy is being finalized. Technical and advisory services are being provided to the Government of Senegal in implementing various climate research and adaptation projects. ECA provided technical and advisory services and training to community radio stations in Cabo Verde, Cameroon and Rwanda, on analytical reporting on climate resilient practices.

49. The high points of the work of ECA during the reporting period were: (i) the organization of the sixth annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, from 18–20 October 2016; and (ii) the leading of Africa participation at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held 7-18 November 2016 in Marrakech, Morocco. At the sixth annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, over 300 participants urged Africa to engage with, and embrace the Paris Agreement within the framework of its development aspirations, as underscored in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the 2030 Agenda, which sets global targets with a vision of “leaving no one behind”. They urged the African Climate Policy Centre to consider supporting the revision of the nationally determined contribution of member States in order to ensure proper alignment with national and regional developmental goals, and also to develop a programme to support countries with the implementation of the nationally determined contributions.

50. At the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, ECA in partnership with the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development hosted the African Pavilion, a convening venue and platform for Africans in making the voices of the continent heard during the climate change negotiations.

51. The Africa Day event was held at the Pavilion on two themes: moving from commitment to action with nationally determined contributions, and the Africa renewable energy initiative: moving forward. The day was chaired by President Alpha Condé of the Republic of Guinea and was also attended by the President of Botswana, Ian Khama; the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; the President of Togo, Faure Gnassingbe, and by ministers from the continent, heads of pan-African institutions, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, ECA, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, and by development partners. The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was also an opportunity for ECA to present to development partners the five-year business plan of the tripartite partnership of Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme, jointly implemented by ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank.

52. Recent global commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063 are built on the same tenets of transformation, inclusiveness and sustainability. Indeed, Agenda 2063 calls

for the transformation, growth and industrialization of African economies through beneficiation and value addition of natural resources, for the implementation of the African mining vision at the country and continental level, with strategies needed to grow the African blue and green economies. The 2030 Agenda, similarly, calls for achieving sustainable management and the efficient use of natural resources.

53. The priorities of African member States in response to recent global trends in minerals and to promote transformation in line with the mandate of ECA are inherently linked under those frameworks, which is the focus of support to member States provided by the African Mineral Development Centre.

54. The work programme of the African Mineral Development Centre focuses on institutionalizing the African mining vision and includes providing, as requested by member States, direct technical support for building institutional partnerships with Governments, the private sector and civil society organizations, expanding its portfolio, kick-starting a number of projects, effectively communicating issues surrounding the African mining vision, and engaging in implementing the country mining vision and regional-level mining vision. During the current reporting period, the African Mineral Development Centre has worked with 24 countries across the continent (with continuously increasing numbers), covering four of the five subregions of the continent, plus regional organizations – specifically, the regional economic communities – and external partners, including governments and the private sector.

55. This covers the African Mineral Development Centre's concerted efforts to leverage the country mining vision process as a platform for eliminating mineral sector enclaves, mitigating fragmentation within the sector and optimizing trade-offs in terms of Governments' management of their respective mineral sectors, and inclusive engagement of stakeholders to balance and align interests and priorities.

56. The African Mineral Development Centre has been organized along a number of key streams of work, and involves new and dynamic areas, including implementation of the recently developed African Mining Governance Framework, the Atlas of African Blue Economy/African Deep Sea Mining, and the African Mining and Geological Information Strategy, in which the African Mineral Development Centre will continue to work in 2017.

57. The work of the African Mineral Development Centre is conducted in close collaboration with ECA, in particular, its Macroeconomic Policy Division the African Centre for Gender, and its subregional offices; and with regional economic communities. Some of the 2016 achievements include, but are not limited to:

(a) Writing a study on women in Africa in artisanal and small-scale mining, which was conducted by the ECA African Centre for Gender, highlighting the significant, yet chronically under-reported, major role that women in Africa play in the sector, in particular in artisanal and small-scale mining. The study found that the workforce of the artisanal and small-scale mining comprised 40–50 per cent women. The study highlighted examples of women in Ghana, Guinea and the United Republic of Tanzania, and identified the key challenges that women face in the sector and suggested measures to make that sector more gender-responsive.

(b) Supporting the work of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows by undertaking a multi-country case study on illicit financial flows along mineral value chains, entitled: "Impact of Illicit Financial Flows on Domestic Resource Mobilization: Optimizing Africa's Mineral Revenues".

(c) Undertaking studies, in collaboration with the Subregional Office for Southern Africa, which offered actionable recommendations for promoting

viable mineral value chains for the production of critical “feedstock” to drive industrialization in the Southern African Development Community.

4. Statistics

58. The ECA African Centre for Statistics is responsible for executing the subprogramme on statistics. It works to enhance the capacity of member States to produce and disseminate high-quality statistics. The Centre executes the programme through a range of advocacy measures, including production of manuals and guidelines based on international methods, standards and concepts, as well as providing technical assistance in the design and implementation of their national strategies for the development of statistics and other statistical areas such as national accounts, geospatial, civil registration and vital statistics.

59. Progress has been made towards supporting countries in implementing statistical strategies. Joint evaluation missions carried out by ECA and partners, namely, the African Development Bank and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (known as Paris21) pointed out the continued interest of countries to benefit from technical assistance to strengthen their legal and institutional environment, developing human capacity and mobilizing resources for statistical production.

60. ECA organized the fifth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa in conjunction with the tenth session of the Directors General of National Statistics Offices in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, from 30 November to 2 December 2016, and was attended by delegates from 38 member States of ECA and a number of development partners supporting statistical development in Africa. At the meeting, discussions focused on the status and challenges in the production of economic statistics in Africa and took account of the various efforts made towards the modernization of official statistics in the continent to support the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The status of the implementation of resolutions adopted at previous meetings was also reviewed. Other issues covered by the Commission include: urbanization data and statistics in Africa; mobile technology for statistical data collection in Africa; African statistical development index; civil registration and vital statistics; and the 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

61. In addition, ECA organized the second meeting of the Regional Committee on Global Geoinformation Management in Africa to review progress and consider policies, measures and steps that African countries can take to ensure the successful implementation of global geospatial information management in Africa.

62. ECA has been working with the other pan-African institutions and member States to develop a common list of indicators that can be used to measure progress under the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063. Specifically, the Commission has endeavoured to address the current status and challenges to economic statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. It has developed an operational guidebook for incorporating the informal sector into national accounts. In addition, it is developing a handbook on statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals, which will serve to identify the data gaps and explore the economic statistics database needed for compiling indicators relevant to those Goals.

63. With regard to economic statistics and national accounts, ECA is supporting the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts in Africa. As the secretariat of the African Project on the 2008 System of National Accounts, ECA continued to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration among member States in order to facilitate its timely and effective implementation, including providing technical assistance to countries.

64. The 2020 round of population and housing censuses started in 2015 and runs to 2024. With the support of ECA, the revised Addendum was finalized and brought into line with the third revision of the global Principles and Recommendations on Population and Housing Censuses. Discussions were held with partners on the 2016–2020 work plan for the 2020 Africa Programme on Population and Housing Censuses Decade (2015–2024), leading to a five-year Africa census programme.

65. The Africa programme for accelerated improvement of civil registration and vital statistics is being implemented in the light of policy and programme guidance provided by the Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration. Within the regional core group concerned with civil registration and vital statistics, ECA has contributed substantively to the implementation of the regional programme, including the development of technical materials designed to enhance skills in African countries; capacity-building workshops on sharing experience and best practice in civil registration and vital statistics; the development of a global e-learning course on civil registration and vital statistics; and support to countries in undertaking assessment and planning processes in their systems relating to civil registration and vital statistics.

66. The establishment of the African Group on Gender Statistics by the Statistical Commission for Africa has increased awareness and facilitated the coordination of several activities in the production and use of gender statistics in Africa. Under the leadership of ECA, the African Group on Gender Statistics developed a regional programme called the African Programme on Gender Statistics, which encompasses all conceivable activities that needed to be undertaken at the regional level under a five-year plan of action for 2012–2016 to ensure that member States develop and implement comprehensive national gender statistics programmes.

67. The Conference of Ministers mandated ECA to produce the country profiles series, which addresses inclusive socioeconomic development with key indicators and data in the economic sphere. The African Centre for Statistics, data centres at the ECA subregional offices and national statistical offices joined hands to source, collect, analyse and validate all data needed for the production of the various country profiles. The profiles offered an opportunity for African countries to recount their own narratives and document their experience of and prospects for socioeconomic development.

68. ECA continued to consolidate the establishment of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management. An action plan on geospatial information for sustainable development in Africa was developed and aligned with global agendas and programmes (in particular, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063) to foster and support technical activities development, strengthen and align specific needs and interests of Africa, and encourage and facilitate the integration of statistics with geospatial information. Further, ECA developed a global strategic framework for the integration of statistical and geospatial information. The strategy outlines some of the policy principles on how to mainstream geospatial technology into the work of national statistical offices all the way through training, data and processes.

69. ECA has continued to oversee the implementation of the global strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics in Africa. The various activities are clustered around the three pillars that will contribute to the enhancement of the capacity of national statistical systems: regional training workshops on new agricultural statistics production methods; elaboration of tailored manuals and syllabuses for self-education and on-the-job learning; and awarding of scholarships for Master's Degree programmes in agricultural statistics.

70. ECA has developed the Solution Exchange for the African Statistical Community as a peer-to-peer online facilitation platform for statistical professionals to share their knowledge and experience in pursuit of the common objective of solving problems, thereby improving their effectiveness and influence both individually and as a professional group.

71. Following the 2015 Conference of Ministers resolution 931 (XLVIII) on data revolution and statistical development, the Conference of Ministers “resolves to lead the African data revolution, bringing together diverse data communities and using a wide range of data sources, tools and innovative technologies”³ and the request of the subsequent 2016 Conference of Ministers that the integrated reporting and follow-up on sustainable development be supported with information on the status of the data system on the continent, ECA programmed a biennial Africa Data Revolution Report. The first edition has been produced and will be launched during the World Data Forum in January 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa. The report reviews the data ecosystem in the continent with respect to harnessing the data revolution for sustainable development, with comprehensive assessments of the national data system in seven countries, namely, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

72. One important aspect of the global data revolution is the open data initiative, which is unlocking the potential in available data to foster economic growth, job creation, transparency and accountability, among other opportunities. However, participation by African statistical offices has been limited and selective. ECA is organizing a session during the World Data Forum on making official statistics open by default. The session is intended to promote consensus building among national statistical officers and other data producers, as well as stakeholders involved in national open data initiatives, and help strengthen the resolution to work towards a new notational data ecosystem in which official statistics is open by default.

73. Finally, ECA is implementing a United Nations Development Account project on the use of mobile technologies to collect data. The project is now in the second phase of piloting. Phase I involved the following countries: Cameroon, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kenya, Tunisia and Zimbabwe; phase II involved Egypt, Gabon, Lesotho, Mali and Uganda. Some of the key results of phase I include: (i) in Cameroon, the capacity of the National Statistical Institute was enhanced by employing mobile devices to collect data on producer prices; (ii) in Ethiopia, the national statistical office successfully tested mobile data collection for compiling monthly retail and producer prices; (iii) in the Gambia and Kenya, the project contributed positively to the relevant statistical offices’ efforts to set up a consumer price index that enabled the country to monitor the inflation rate; (iv) in Tunisia, the national statistical office, as a result of the project, moved away from paper-based data collection and is gradually employing digital technology; and (v) in Zimbabwe, the national statistical agency used the mobile devices to conduct a consumer price survey. As a result, other branches of the Government have also started relying on this technology. More of the details on the outcome of the mid-term review are narrated under the Development Account section that follows.

5. Capacity development

74. Under the framework of capacity development, ECA continues to strengthen the capacity of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, and the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism and regional economic communities to implement their development priorities. The latter are in line with the priorities and vision

³ Resolution 931 (XLVIII), para. 2.

articulated in Agenda 2063 and the first ten-year implementation plan 2014–2023, the United Nations–African Union partnership on Africa’s integration and development agenda (for 2017–2027) (PAIDA) and the internationally agreed development goals, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

75. The subprogramme coordinated efforts by organizations and agencies of the United Nations system working in Africa in support of the African Union by facilitating joint activities, particularly in support of the implementation of Agenda 2063. Evidence of such coordination efforts included the seventeenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme, which was held on 2 and 3 April 2016 in Addis Ababa. ECA coordinated the Report of the Committee on the Reconfiguration of the Regional Coordination Mechanism –Africa Clusters, which was finalized at a retreat of the Regional Coordination Mechanism –Africa clusters and subclusters Coordinators, held 11 and 12 February 2016, at Debre Zeit, Ethiopia. The support of ECA resulted in the adoption of the reconfiguration of the Regional Coordination Mechanism clusters in support of the African Union and its priority (Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, for which ECA is the secretariat).

76. The session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism also adopted a new communication strategy that aims to: (a) ensure that influential media follow the ethical principles of objectivity and balance in their coverage of the development process in Africa; and (b) contribute to changing the narrative on the continent. Those dual objectives will enhance communication on the implementation of the objectives of Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. It will also promote collaboration and the exchange of information among and between clusters and subclusters.

77. While being considered by the United Nations General Assembly, PAIDA is receiving the support of the Group of African States (loosely referred to as the African Group). The process is continuing. The secretariat of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, with the support of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, will continue to follow up on the matter in 2017.

78. At the subregional level and through the Subregional Coordination Mechanism (North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa), ECA provided technical support to the respective annual meetings, which form key consultation frameworks for the programming and coordination of support to corresponding regional economic communities. Overall, their goals were to: (i) define activities to be implemented under the upcoming practice, on the basis of needs expressed by the regional economic communities and in line with the commitment expressed by partners; (ii) develop an advocacy for resources mobilization; (iii) assess the implementation of planned activities; and (iv) prepare the report to the 2017 Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa.

79. Furthermore, in the period under review, the subprogramme influenced policies through functional support and technical input to high-level meetings and to statutory meetings (in particular, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts of the five subregional offices of ECA: North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa). The influence of ECA is reflected in the outcome documents of those meetings.

80. ECA provided technical support on the issue of transboundary infrastructure and regional integration in the high-level sessions during the sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, which took place in Nairobi on 27–29 August 2016. As many as 72 memorandums of understanding were signed with African businesses and Japan pledged \$32 billion towards African development. ECA is currently developing an implementation plan

post-Tokyo International Conference on African Development in support of the recommendations. In addition, ECA undertook analytical work on transformative industrialization in the context of the Continental Free Trade Area, in support of the goal of the African Union to succeed in achieving the Continental Free Trade Area by 2017.

81. Lastly, ECA conducted scoping missions and consultations with member States and regional bodies in order to define the technical support that will be provided to their strategic initiatives. It also had significant policy influence on the revitalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism (such as the African Peer Review Mechanism Strategic Plan 2016–2020), while continuing to support countries participating in the Review Mechanism (including Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia) and continental structures.

6. Gender and women in development

82. The Subprogramme on Gender and Women in Development aims to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of international and regional commitments and is implemented by the African Centre for Gender. During the reporting period, the subprogramme undertook policy research and provided advisory services to support member States to integrate gender concerns into policies, programmes and strategies. It also used knowledge platforms for outreach, and sharing of information and best practices. The focus of the work of the subprogramme during the year under review was gender statistics, women's economic empowerment with a focus on extractives, women's human rights, and gender mainstreaming.

83. African Women's Report: The African Centre for Gender is conducting research on securing women's rights to social protection in Africa to produce the new edition of the African Women's Report. The report aims to document women's constraints to access social protection services in Africa and to define policy actions for member States to address them. In line with ECA policy to build strategic partnership with research institutions and academia, the African Centre for Gender is working with the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development to carry out empirical research in five African countries: Chad, Kenya, Mauritania, Namibia and Senegal. Secondary research is being undertaken across the continent to document and analyse country legal frameworks, policies and programmes related to women's rights to social protection.

84. The African gender and development index enables countries to compile data and assess their own performance, in terms of achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, both quantitatively and qualitatively. It provides a mechanism for streamlining reporting on all gender-related conventions and commitments. The Cabinet of Ministers of Mauritius underscored that the African gender and development index was a critical mechanism to measure the status of women as compared to men in the social, economic and political spheres. During the reporting period, the African gender and development index was rolled out in additional 10 countries (Guinea, Liberia, Namibia, the Niger, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, South Africa and Zimbabwe) as part of phase 3; South Africa undertook its second African gender and development index in 2016. The fourth and final phase of the African gender and development index was launched in June 2016 with the organization of a methodology workshop, which was attended by 11 countries (Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Sao Tome and Principe, South Sudan, and the Sudan). The workshop was outstandingly rated by participants in all key areas as either relevant or very relevant. Phase 4 of the African gender and development index is implemented by five countries: Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mauritius, and Sao Tome and Principe. This brings the number of countries covered by the African gender

and development index to 40.⁴ Starting in 2016, the African Centre for Gender has started compiling gender dashboards for African countries based on the information collected as part of the African gender and development index.

85. As a result of recommendations from member States, the African Centre for Gender is currently working with the African Development Bank to merge the African gender and development index with the gender equality index of the African Development Bank into one Africa-specific gender index. The joint index will take account of the gender-related indicators associated with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. It will be in five African countries during the first quarter of 2017 and roll out across the continent towards the end of 2017.

86. The African Scorecard on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: At the request of the African Union Commission, the African Centre for Gender, in collaboration with the African Development Bank produced the second edition of the African Scorecard on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, of which the topic was: "Women's rights in Africa: Where does the continent stand?". The aim was to support African leaders in implementing their commitments for women's human rights by providing them with a comprehensive assessment of the progress they have made in securing and protecting women's socioeconomic, civil and political rights. It also analysed the challenges faced and identified measures that are essential for ensuring that the human rights of women are realized. The results of the Scorecard were presented at the African Union Heads of State and Government held in July 2016 in Kigali, during which the Chairperson of the African Union Commission gave an award to the best performing countries.

87. Women in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining: The African Centre for Gender, in partnership with the African Minerals Development Center, undertook a study in six minerals-rich and producing countries, namely, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Central Africa); Ghana and Guinea (West Africa); the United Republic of Tanzania (East Africa); Zambia and Zimbabwe (Southern Africa), to examine the degree of gender sensitivity of their existing policies, laws and regulations on artisanal and small-scale mining and also to explore the possibilities of financing for women and collaboration between large-scale mining companies and artisanal and small-scale mining. The study resulted in the production of two reports: "Regional Synthesis of National Reports on Women in Artisanal and Small-scale Mining" and "Regional Synthesis of national Compendiums on Women in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining". Furthermore, the work of the African Centre for Gender has helped influence the mining policies of Ghana and Zambia on the formalization of artisanal and small-scale mining.

88. Capacity development: In line with the approval of the ECA Senior Management Team of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, the African Centre for Gender organized ECA-wide gender mainstreaming training from June to August 2016, focusing on gender mainstreaming and aimed at building the capacity of staff members to integrate gender into programmes and operations. The training was organized to reach all staff members (professional and support staff) and was tailor-made for each division to ensure relevance and usefulness. ECA divisions and subregional offices underwent the training. Overall, a positive feedback was received on the training in terms of its relevance, content and usefulness.

89. Gender marker: The African Centre for Gender, in collaboration with the Strategic Planning and Operational Quality Division of ECA, rolled out the

⁴ The other 24 countries are Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

ECA gender marker, a tool recommended by the United Nations system-wide action plan to track resources and the extent to which gender was integrated into programme outputs. The gender marker has been included in the annual business plan template to enable routine reporting and review of progress made. In September 2016, programme management officers, programme assistants, budget officers and gender focal persons were trained on the use of the gender marker and gender costing, in order to ensure compliance with such a policy. In addition, continual backstopping was provided from the Strategic Planning and Operational Quality Division of ECA and the African Centre for Gender, which was in place to support the rolling out of the programme and to ensure its effectiveness. Promotion of gender policy was further assisted by the involvement of the Chief Executives Board.

90. Technical Support: The African Centre for Gender provided tailored technical support to the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family of Mauritania on integrating gender issues in national plans, programmes and budget. A key outcome of the support was the development of a strategic plan for the operationalization of the National Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.

91. The African Centre for Gender, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and the African Union Commission jointly organized a consultative meeting of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in January 2016, which focused on women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development. The aim was to support member States to build consensus around African priorities in order to influence the global outcome document of that session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The meeting brought together ministers whose portfolios focused on gender and women's empowerment, experts from 38 African countries, representatives from regional economic communities, and civil society organizations, resulting in an outcome document that, in turn, shaped the contribution from African countries in March 2016 to the agreed conclusions of that session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

92. Consultative Forum with African Universities: The African Centre for Gender organized a consultative forum on "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: The Role of Research Institutions and Universities in Harnessing the Potential of Agendas 2030 and 2063, with Africa's Academia and Research Institutions", held 3 and 4 October 2016. The meeting forged a strategic partnership with African universities, research institutes and think tanks on gender equality research agenda-setting. The meeting defined a clear strategy for capacity-building and for strengthening a common research agenda, within the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The forum brought together over 30 experts, researchers and scholars from African universities, research institutes, African think tanks working on gender and social development issues as well as the relevant United Nations agencies and the African Union Commission. The forum established a research network for the implementation of the research agenda for the continent on gender. The following four priority research areas for strengthening gender research in general and providing vital knowledge to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 have been identified: (a) global, regional and national socio-economic and political developments and regional economic agendas and their implications for implementing gender equality and women's empowerment agendas; (b) economic justice and empowerment; (c) promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in politics, policies and institutions; and (d) social relations, social sectors, policies and outcomes for gender equality and women's empowerment.

7. Subregional activities for development

7.1 Subregional Office for North Africa

93. The Subregional Office for North Africa contributed to enhancing the capacities of member States in areas related to the countries' participation in global and regional value chains and the development of innovative and integrated policies for green and sustainable growth.

94. In line with the mandate of ECA, the Subregional Office for North Africa, in partnership with the OCP Policy Center and the University of Pennsylvania, contributed to the organization of the third Africa Think Tank Conference on Building a Sustainable and Secure Future for the People and Institutions of Africa, by mobilizing the participants and contributing to the scientific content. The conference was in Marrakech, Morocco and held 2 and 4 May 2016. More than 120 experts from 85 African and global think tanks and institutions took part. The ECA country profiles were disseminated at the event. The main idea proposed during the conference was to set a financing mechanism to assist the Governments of Africa in making the most informed decisions possible, by providing decision makers with robust, reliable and independent research evidence coming from African think tanks.

95. African Centre for Statistics and the Subregional Office for North Africa assisted the National Institute of Statistics of Tunisia to introduce the use of mobile technologies for data collection and dissemination as part of a United Nations Development Account project. The national institute has started collecting data using android tablets to facilitate the monthly calculation of the price index. With ECA support, it has also launched a mobile application for the data dissemination from the 2014 census. The project allowed Tunisia to significantly improve its global open data ranking. Technical measures were also taken in preparation for the launch of the first employment survey using mobile technologies in Tunisia.

96. The Subregional Office for North Africa provided support to the Union maghrébine des entrepreneurs in organizing national and regional round tables (in Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) to increase private sector awareness on climate change challenges and opportunities as well as on trends in climate finance opportunities, particularly in the context of implementing the national determined contributions. The recommendations of the national round tables were discussed during the regional meeting that resulted in the adoption of the Union maghrébine des entrepreneurs Declaration. That Declaration was presented and officially signed by the four national business organizations during a press conference held on 16 December 2016.

97. The Subregional Office for North Africa produced the country profiles for three countries (Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia) in addition to four produced between June 2015 and March 2016. The production of country profiles involved many activities, including conducting missions to countries to strengthen partnerships with national institutions, such as the economic affairs, finance and development departments and the national statistics institute; data collection from primary sources; and identifying the existing needs for capacity development to improve the availability, quality and analysis of statistical data.

98. With regard to knowledge generation and information sharing, the Subregional Office developed in-depth research on several areas, such as: access to funding for rural women's empowerment, which was a comparative analysis of good practices and lessons learned on microfinance, covering Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia; migrants remittances in many North African countries and their impact on development; territorial approach of industrial policy and inclusive growth within the context of structural transformation.

99. Such research areas were requested by member States, in particular during the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts meetings; the main findings were also shared and discussed during expert group meetings attended by high-level experts from international and national institutions.

100. The Subregional Office for North Africa organized an expert group meeting on the territorialization of industrial policy and inclusive growth, which was held in Tunis, 24 and 25 November 2016. A study was produced by ECA and the Subregional Office and presented at the expert group meeting for discussion. The objective of the study was to make an assessment of industrial policy territorialization in North Africa, with a focus on Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. Recommendations contained in the study were discussed and approved by the experts of member States during that meeting.

101. On 28 June 2016, the Subregional Office for North Africa presented the 2016 edition of the Economic Report on Africa to the Conseil économique social et environnemental of Morocco. In addition, the Subregional Office participated in nine national and regional events, where ECA knowledge generation products were disseminated, including the country profiles and the 2016 edition of the Economic Report on Africa and in other related activities, including: a conference on regional integration and industrial policy tools (Tangier, Morocco, 20 April 2016); “Innovation for Sustainable Development in Africa” (Beni Mellal, Morocco, 22 - 28 May 2016); a conference on the single window initiative for Arab and African countries, in the context of the post-Nairobi World Trade Organization trade facilitation agreement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (Casablanca, Morocco 30 May - 1 June 2016); a meeting on ensuring inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 (Cairo, 17 May 2016); a meeting on external equilibriums, competitiveness and the structural transformation process of the Moroccan economy (Rabat, 24 May 2016); (6) the launch of the 2016 edition of the Economic Report on Africa at the Ahmed Ben Bella University (Oran, Algeria, 1 July 2016); a workshop on the post-Nairobi World Trade Organization Agenda (Tunis 24 – 26 October 2016); a workshop focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals: “How to tackle the challenges of climate change?” (Rabat 10 May 2016); a panel discussion on investment that focused on exports diversification, which took place at the African Forum (Algiers, 3 – 5 December 2016).

102. In the area of consensus-building activities, the Subregional Office for Northern Africa supported the preparatory activities during the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in order to ensure an effective participation of the African member States. The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties was organized in Marrakech, Morocco, in November 2016, in partnership with the African Development Bank and the 22nd Conference of Parties Steering Committee. Ahead of the Conference, several high-level meetings were conducted in order to build consensus on an African position. Participants in such meetings included representatives from African countries, high-level members of the Steering Committee of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties, representatives of local organizations and entities in the United Nations system, and of main local business associations. Participants called for non-governmental organizations and business associations from within Africa to have a strong presence at the Conference of the Parties, and to coordinate their participation. Furthermore, the Subregional Office supported the host country in managing the African Pavilion at the Conference, which gathered about 15,000 participants and 1,000 journalists.

103. Moreover, the Subregional Office supported the annual meeting of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism held in Rabat, which contributed to identifying the priority areas of cooperation for the period 2017–2018, both in

the context of the sociopolitical situation in North Africa and in that of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the subregional level.

7.2 Subregional Office for West Africa

104. As the main regional economic community in West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is the undisputed pillar of the continental integration process, as advocated by the African Union. The regional economic community comprises 15 countries and aims to promote cooperation and integration in the economic, social and cultural domains, including the free movement of persons and goods, and the right of residence. ECOWAS also aims at promoting peace and security, although the operational and rapid response capacities of its forces need strengthening. ECOWAS has built a record of performance in the area of supervision of electoral processes, which has become an organizational mandate.

105. The Subregional Office for West Africa strengthened the partnership with the Economic Community of West African States, in order to make progress with regional integration in West Africa, as specified in the Protocol of Agreement signed in June 2013, which established a framework for consultation, cooperation and partnership among intergovernmental organizations in West Africa. That includes the Economic Community of West African States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the Liptako-Gourma Authority, the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Niger Basin Authority and the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development.

106. The Subregional Office for West Africa re-edited its publication on the progress made towards regional integration in West Africa since the inception of the Economic Community of West African States in 1975, entitled: “ECOWAS at 40: An Assessment of the Progress Made towards Regional Integration in West Africa”. In addition, a study is being finalized on the prospects of the unique currency of the countries of the Economic Community of West African States.

107. A high-level dialogue between the Subregional Office and the management of ECOWAS Commission took place on 11 November 2016 at the headquarters of the Economic Community in Abuja. The meeting included the new President and the Commissioners of the ECOWAS Commission and prepares the signing of a new multi-year cooperation agreement between the two institutions. This forthcoming agreement will cover long-standing issues relating to the enhancement of the process of integration and the emerging challenges in the subregion.

108. In the same vein, during the first week of March 2016, the Subregional Office for West Africa participated in a meeting that focused on the structural transformation of the Liptako-Gourma Authority, including an assessment of staffing and its new mandate to better serve its three member States (Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger). Such support has helped the Liptako-Gourma Authority to strengthen its technical capacity to better articulate its programme of work with the activities of the Commission of ECOWAS.

109. The Subregional Office responded to 22 advisory service requests to support regional economic communities and other subregional and intergovernmental organizations on institutional and sectoral issues in the areas of statistics, regional integration and sustainable development in West Africa, when only six such responses to service requests are required for 2016.

110. The nineteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for West Africa, held in Dakar in February 2016, in close cooperation with the authorities of the Government of Senegal was one of the major events of the Subregional Office for West Africa. During that event, under particular

consideration were the ECA country profiles as tools to serve the structural transformation agenda of West African countries. The meeting was followed by two ad hoc experts group meetings on innovative financing for the structural transformation of West African economies held in February 2016 and on transport infrastructure and trade in West Africa held in November 2016.

111. In line with the biennium target, the Office has already produced four country profiles on Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria. Four countries profiles are expected to be finalized in 2017 on Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali and Togo.

112. The Subregional Office for West Africa continuously works at strengthening the statistical systems in West Africa, including:

(a) By evaluating the statistical flow mechanisms for national data quality by member States Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria have had easy access to convey quality data towards the Economic Community of West African States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), and ECA databases for broader use. This was done through: field missions in Ghana, Guinea and Nigeria; work sessions with Intergovernmental organizations such as the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa and the West African Monetary Agency; contributing to the meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire and also to meetings on integration (November 2016) by convening a meeting of statistics stakeholders, including Directors General of the national statistical offices of the member States of ECOWAS and the Head of the Statistical Centre of WAEMU.

(b) By contributing, in January 2016, in collaboration with the Social Development Policy Division, to launching the preparation of the African gender and development index of the Niger in Niamey. A high-level meeting was held, which gathered together the stakeholders, with the aim of strengthening their capacities to provide better supervision and to assume ownership of the process.

(c) By contributing to the first statutory meeting of the West African Monetary Agency, which took place in Conakry in July 2016 and was attended by representatives of ministries of economics and finance.

(d) By signing, in Niamey on 22 September 2016, a new cooperation framework with the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa, as one of the key strategies for the revival of the statistical data collection mechanism.

(e) By reviewing the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics, adopted by the African Union, in the West Africa subregion, in light of the need to harmonize forecasting methodologies and datasets in member States as part of the global strategy of producing quality and timely data; and by holding an expert group meeting focused on an assessment and prospects of the African Charter on Statistics and the data revolution in West Africa, in Dakar, 24 and 25 November 2016.

113. The Subregional Office for West Africa has undertaken the following mitigation actions in order to reduce impacts of a number of risks that impede development activities in the subregion:

(a) The socioeconomic, institutional and security environment, including after-Ebola pandemic outbreak in the subregion, are characterized by continual threats imposed by the criminal activities of the group known as Boko Haram with some attacks perpetrated against member States (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger). The situation calls for reinforcement of the

Office business continuity mechanism when full support is given to the United Nations Joint and Integrated Strategy for resilience in the Sahel region.

(b) In view of the preparation of a scoping mission and to reinforce its cooperation with the Lake Chad Basin Commission, a mission took place to N'Djamena in November 2016. Frequent threats imposed by criminal activities of the Boko Haram sect in the West Africa subregion were among the issues discussed. That situation jeopardizes ongoing efforts to advance the structural transformation of economies in the region. Hence, stakeholders are urged to enhance cooperation in order to overcome these challenges.

(c) Owing to a high level of turnover among statistical data collection focal persons, continuous contact is needed to ensure an uninterrupted statistical data collection process.

7.3 Subregional Office for Central Africa

114. During the period under review, the Subregional Office for Central Africa produced several reports, organized one ad hoc expert group meetings, two high-level policy dialogues and one consultative meeting. The Subregional Office for Central Africa also undertook advisory services and continued to disseminate information and knowledge in central Africa. In the same vein, the office engaged in additional activities jointly with ECA substantive Divisions in support of member States and regional economic communities.

115. Subregional Office for Central Africa produced four country profiles for Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo and Sao Tome and Principe, respectively. It also produced Quarterly Updates of those country profiles. All the associated activities and, notably, the choice of the thematic for each country profile were conducted in close collaboration with the main data providers in the respective countries.

116. Subregional Office for Central Africa organized an ad hoc expert group meeting in Brazzaville, held 13 and 14 December 2016 to review the report on the status and prospects of the implementation of the African mining vision in Central Africa. Participants recommended that some key issues be included in the analysis, such as mineral development and artisanal mining, with the view to improving the report. They also urged regional economic communities, member States and development partners to accelerate the implementation of the African mining vision in Central Africa. In particular, the African Minerals Development Centre was invited to ensure greater popularization of the African mining vision within countries by organizing more training sessions on mining contracts negotiation.

117. The seventh session of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism for the Support of the United Nations System for the Implementation of the African Union and NEPAD Programmes in Central Africa was held on 6 and 7 December 2016 in Libreville. The objective of the meeting was to reflect on how the United Nations system could support subregional institutions through the Subregional Coordination Mechanism in the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The participants highlighted that the elaboration of the successor to the Indicative Joint Programme 2013–2016 would provide an opportunity for the subregion to take into account the priorities identified under those two international agendas. They suggested that, in the interests of deeper knowledge and ownership of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, the capacities of member States and the regional economic communities be strengthened with the support of technical and financial partners, including those outside the United Nations system. At the end of the discussions, a road map for the development of the next indicative programme was adopted. African countries were also called on to generate better quality

data as well as to set up strong and effective national planning institutions with political legitimacy.

118. In line with the ECA campaign approach, the Subregional Office for Central Africa has built on the policy challenges identified in its country profiles of the Congo and Gabon in order to organize policy dialogues on two topics, namely: developing transport infrastructure for meeting the challenge of structural transformation of the Congo; and developing the timber industry to support the structural transformation of Gabon. The dialogues offered platforms to deepen the understanding of the development problematic confronting the selected countries as well as explored policy options to address the topical challenges of diversifying through the timber industry (Gabon) and enabling infrastructure to accelerate structural transformation. The events attracted the participation of high-level government officials. They culminated in the identification of follow-up workstreams that the office is already working on and include study tours on corridor development for Congo and cluster development studies for the timber industry in Gabon.

119. On 9 June 2016, the Subregional Office for Central Africa, in collaboration with the Capacity Development Division of ECA, organized a high-level policy dialogue that gathered close to 40 senior State planning officials from across Africa to share views and best practices on urbanization and development planning for its potential to deliver growth, improve livelihoods and accelerate structural transformation. The dialogue, which is the fourth instalment of a continent-wide initiative by ECA for policy coherence in Africa, provided a platform for countries to share experiences as they come to terms with the stark reality that they cannot effectively emerge if they continue to overlook urbanization concerns in development planning. The participants proposed that decision makers and policymakers make use of geospatial information to tease out the challenges and opportunities brought by urbanization. They also underscored the need to improve the connectivity of urban areas to rural, regional and global spheres in order to attract investments. The value of such connectivity could not be overstated, given that better connectivity would go hand in glove with greater regional integration and cooperation, which are crucial for shared infrastructure such as energy supply and for overall growth. Moreover, participants commented that since urbanization is cross-cutting, it requires national planning to achieve effective intersectoral coordination.

120. Advisory services were provided in support of post-conflict countries in Central Africa during the round table organized by United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the Economic Community of Central African States, held in Yaounde, 18 and 19 October 2016, on the topic of regional integration, an essential lever for peace and development in Central Africa. The regional integration index of ECA was presented during the round table.

121. Pursuing its effort to support regional integration in Central Africa, the Subregional Office for Central Africa and the Economic Community of Central African States signed an aide-memoire on 8 December 2016 to strengthen their cooperation in areas including infrastructure development, information and communication technology, energy, governance, peace and security, trade and access to markets, environment, agriculture and food security, rationalization of the Regional Economic Commission, and statistics. Moreover, the Subregional Office for Central Africa and organizations in the United Nations system in the subregion reiterated their support of the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

122. The Subregional Office for Central Africa continued its efforts to disseminate information and knowledge through its website, library, knowledge-sharing platforms and publications.

123. The activities carried out by the Subregional Office for Central Africa contributed to strengthening the capacity of regional economic communities and member States to formulate harmonized macroeconomic and sectoral policies, to sensitizing various stakeholders on regional integration, structural transformation, post-conflict, sustainable development, and to disseminating knowledge and information.

124. Some of the challenges facing the Subregional Office include its relatively high vacancy rate and the unavailability of timely and current data for country profiles, notwithstanding the close collaboration and engagement with national statistics offices. The problem is structural in nature.

125. Moreover, delivery of the subprogramme faces inherent risks. Threats of instability in post-conflict countries and the level of willingness on the part of member States and organizations to strengthen subregional cooperation could hamper the effective and efficient delivery of the subprogramme. For example, political instability in the Central African Republic presents a clear threat to the economy of that country and repeated attacks by Boko Haram could seriously hamper the stability of Cameroon and Chad. More significantly, the Central African Republic is the host country of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, a major partner of the Subregional Office for Central Africa.

126. As a lesson learned, the role of ECA as a think tank is increasingly being recognized across the entire subregion. Member States and regional economic communities have expressed interest in establishing closer collaboration with ECA. The presence of the Commission beyond the host country is being requested by many countries in Central Africa. With new staff on board, it will be easier for the office to be more client-oriented.

7.4 Subregional Office for Eastern Africa

127. The twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Eastern Africa, held in Nairobi, 8-11 February 2016, focused on institutions, decentralization and structural transformation in Eastern Africa. The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Eastern Africa was an opportunity for reflection and dialogue about the role of institutions and decentralization in structural transformation. The event was attended by more than 300 participants representing the 14 member States covered by the office, policymakers, regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, media, private sector, academia, think tanks and other stakeholders.

128. As a follow-up to the twentieth Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Eastern Africa, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa developed a programme entitled: "Pathways to Structural Transformation in Eastern Africa". The overarching objective of the programme is to help support the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the twentieth Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Eastern Africa (referred to as the Nairobi Agenda) in the 14 member States served by the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa. Beyond the scope of the twentieth Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Eastern Africa and its theme, the programme aims to create platforms to document, analyse and discuss issues on structural transformation in the region.

129. During the period under review, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa has produced and disseminated country profiles for Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Following the launch of the

country profiles in Addis Ababa in March 2016 at the Conference of Ministers, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa has continued to share those products at different platforms across the region. For example, in collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, the Rwanda country profile was launched during a high-level policy debate on structural transformation and green industrialization, organized by the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa in Kigali in May 2016. The dissemination process for the country profiles has been replicated in Kenya and Uganda and has also attracted high-level participants, the latter case leading to an invitation to present the report to parliamentarians of the Government of Uganda. Several other country profiles are currently being drafted or are being reviewed (for Burundi, Djibouti, Madagascar and Somalia), and drafts shared with government officials. Data continue to be a challenge for some of the countries in Eastern Africa, limiting the desired level of analysis, especially for country profiles. Greater coordination with substantive divisions in Addis Ababa is required on a number of key outputs, particularly the composite indexes (the African regional integration index, the African gender and development index and the African social development index), on which the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa is expected to collaborate.

130. Furthering the theme on the challenges to achieving a faster pace of structural transformation, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa has also collaborated with UNCTAD in hosting two policy dialogues (in July and December 2016), using as an opening the launch of two of their annual flagship publications: *Economic Development in Africa 2016 - Debt Dynamics and Development Finance in Africa and Least Developed Countries Report 2016: The path to graduation and beyond: Making the most of the process*. Both events were well-attended by government officials, partners from think tanks and were covered in the media.

131. Under the thematic areas of “blue economy energy” and “sustainable tourism”, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa developed a number of publications, tools and policy documents that have resulted in follow-up and capacity-building interventions at the regional and country levels. A few are highlighted below:

132. Blue economy: During the inaugural Africa Development Week held in April 2016, in Addis Ababa, Africa’s Blue Economy; a Policy Handbook was launched, aimed at assisting member States in mainstreaming blue economy concepts and principles into their national strategies and policies. It complements the background study on the blue economy presented during the nineteenth Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, held in Madagascar in March 2015, and has generated momentum on the theme among countries and organizations such as Kenya, Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Commission. Staff members representing the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa attended and made a presentation of the Blue Economy Policy Handbook at the Regional Workshop of the Indian Ocean Commission on 12 and 13 December 2016. The main recommendations of the meeting, attended by all member States (the Comoros, France⁵, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles), included the strengthening of cooperation between ECA and the Indian Ocean Commission in disseminating the Handbook in the subregion and using it as a methodological tool towards the development of an Indian Ocean Commission regional action plan on the blue economy.

133. Energy: The Subregional Office for Eastern Africa supported the East African Community member States in developing an energy security policy framework. Individual member States are also being supported through, for example: a framework for sustainable deployment of renewable energy technologies in Rwanda; a national solar energy strategy and action plan for

⁵ France was represented by its overseas territory, Reunion Island.

Rwanda; and an energy resources assessment and development planning advisory service to Djibouti. A regional energy workshop was held in Rwanda on 13 and 14 June 2016, bringing together experts and stakeholders from the East African Community and its partner States, to validate the energy security policy framework for that region. That work was undertaken by the partnership of the East African Community and the Subregional Office. At the validation meeting, the policy framework was well received and comments were contributed relating to its enhancement and submission to the Energy Sector Council of the East African Community in September 2016. At the Sub Saharan Africa Power Summit 2016, held in Cape Town, South Africa from 26 to 28 October 2016, about 75 participants from Africa were hosted, including government and private sector players. During the Summit, the Subregional Office was given a platform to discuss energy security policy in Eastern Africa, and its implications for Africa. Furthermore, during the high-level panel, the Subregional Office for Eastern Africa further highlighted the importance of renewable energy deployment as African countries make headways in terms of renewable energy capacity expansion, in line with the sustainable energy for all agenda.

134. Sustainable tourism: After the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Sustainable Tourism Master Plan was launched, several capacity development initiatives were provided to member States in the subregion. A regional tourism workshop that brought together over 90 tourism stakeholders drawn from the Eastern Africa region was organized in Kigali, 1 to 3 June 2016. The workshop addressed issues relating to marketing regional tourism products, establishment of an umbrella regional tourism body, tourism safety and security, development of sustainable tourism toolkit and tourism satellite accounting, particularly on the need for good quality tourism data to inform appropriate policy formulation. In addition, the High-level Panel on Marketing Regional Tourism Products: Challenges and Opportunities, was organized, which brought together discussants from the region. There are emerging opportunities being brought about by regional integration and the growing middle class in Africa that has increased demand for tourism services. The Deputy Executive Secretary for Knowledge Delivery of ECA handed over the Tourism Master Plan to the Minister of Tourism and Culture of Ethiopia. The handover ceremony took place during a United Nations–WTO regional workshop on tourism, held in Addis Ababa, on 15 September 2016.

135. The Subregional Office for Eastern Africa was invited to make a presentation on sustainable tourism, economic development and poverty alleviation at the first Annual Southern Africa Sustainable Tourism Forum. The meeting took place on 16 and 17 November 2016, and was hosted by the Regional Tourism Organization for Southern Africa, an arm of the Southern Africa Development Community. The aim of the conference, which mainly drew over 60 participants from 15 member States of the Southern Africa Development Community, was to share experiences of best practice on sustainable tourism development in Southern Africa and beyond.

136. An important advisory service rendered to the Government of Rwanda is a Market Analysis Study for Rwandan Exports to Angola and Gabon. That was a response to a request made by the Government of Rwanda to ECA as a follow-up to Rwanda's decision to re-join the Economic Community of Central African States and the subsequent high-level dialogue between the Government of Rwanda and ECA, held in Addis Ababa in February 2015, as well as the workshop on accelerating growth in Rwanda, held in Rubavu, Rwanda, in December 2015. The study was carried out in two phases. Phase 1 was a desk-based analysis of trade profiles for all countries in the Economic Community of Central African States region and identification of potential trade opportunities for Rwanda in the Economic Community of Central African States region. For

that phase, ECA produced a study, entitled: “Looking West? – Potential Market Opportunities for Rwandan Exporters in the Economic Community of Central African States region: A Scoping Study”. On the basis of the findings of the first phase of the study, market penetration assessments were identified during the second phase for Angola and Gabon with a focus on the key commodities.

137. In collaboration with colleagues from the Macroeconomic Policy Division of ECA, the “MDGs to SDGs/Agenda 2063 Transition Report 2016” was launched on 27 October 2016 at the Kigali Convention Centre. The purpose of the launch was to increase awareness of the findings of the report among countries in the subregion. The function was attended by several high-level participants, with the Government represented by the Minister of State for Local Government. The One UN in Rwanda was represented by the Resident Coordinator. In addition, those in attendance included the Chairperson of the Rwanda Governance Board; the Director General of Planning in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning; the Ambassador of China; a number of representatives of United Nations agencies, the African Development Bank, civil society and other institutions.

138. The annual meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism for Eastern and Southern Africa was organized by the Economic Commission for Africa, Subregional Offices for Eastern and Southern Africa and hosted by the Southern African Development Community in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 6 and 7 December 2016, on the theme of strengthening regional interventions towards attaining the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The key objective of the 2016 meeting of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism was to provide a forum for stakeholders to deliberate and make recommendations on the alignment of key flagship initiatives of the regional economic communities and the intergovernmental organizations with Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda; and on the instruments of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism (Addendum to the Business Plan, Stakeholder Mapping Study, existing partnerships) aimed at enhancing the collaboration, synergies and coherence among regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and partners around selected flagship initiatives.

7.5 Subregional Office for Southern Africa

139. The work of the Subregional Office for Southern Africa was geared towards assisting member States, regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations to mainstream priorities of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in their policies, strategies and plans. In particular, the work of the Subregional Office for Southern Africa focused on enhancing the capacity of member States, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community to produce and disseminate quality statistics for evidence-based planning and policymaking; and also strengthening their capacity to accelerate the implementation of priority subregional initiatives. The following were the key activities undertaken and intermediate results achieved:

140. The Subregional Office for Southern Africa, upon request, provided technical advisory support to the Southern Africa Development Community in developing the action plan for implementing the Southern Africa Development Community industrialization strategy and roadmap (2015–2063). The action plan, which focuses on the first 15 years of the strategy and roadmap, seeks to establish a coherent and synergistic implementation scheme which contains strategic options and general policies towards the progressive attainment of the set time-bound targets. Support provided included reviewing, and substantively making substantive comments on the early draft action plan, attending and actively participating brainstorming sessions and high-level meetings that

reviewed the draft action plan. Key input made by the Subregional Office for Southern Africa in shaping the action plan included the need to clearly spell out its guiding principles, such as inclusivity and mutuality; wealth creation; transparency and accountability; efficiency through quality and pricing; and the need to take cognizance of the dynamic nature of regional value chains. Those principles underpin the whole agenda of the industrialization strategy.

141. Furthermore, the Subregional Office for Southern Africa provided technical support to the mineral processing subcommittee meeting of the Southern Africa Development Community, including participation in a consultative meeting of the subcommittee in Gaborone in May 2016. The meeting, convened by the secretariat of the Southern Africa Development Community, reviewed and endorsed the recommendations of two studies, one on profiling mineral beneficiation in the Southern Africa Development Community region; and the second on the assessment of skills in the minerals sector of the Southern Africa Development Community region. The studies, undertaken with technical support from the African Mineral Development Centre and the Subregional Office for Southern Africa, are key elements in the Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015–2063). The study on mineral beneficiation identified key value chains which the region could focus on as quick-wins in the industrialization journey and proffered recommendations on how these could be tackled including the development of a regional mining vision and a regional beneficiation strategy. The study on skills identified gaps in the sector and called for deeper integration to facilitate movement of skills, harmonization of training curricula and the sharing of capacities to address the gaps. The subcommittee called on the African Mineral Development Centre to provide further technical support towards developing a mining vision from the perspective of the Southern Africa Development Community and an action plan as well as a costed and prioritized implementation plan for the quick-wins identified in the beneficiation study.

142. Apart from preparing quarterly updates of the 2015 edition of country profiles (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) that were finalized, published and disseminated in time for the Conference of Ministers in April 2016, the Office embarked on the process of producing the 2016 edition of country profiles for the remaining six member States (Angola, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland), as a way of influencing the policy development process at national and subregional levels. Additionally, the Subregional Office for Southern Africa, in collaboration with African Centre for Statistics, convened a Consultative Meeting on Data Collection and the Compilation of Country and Regional Profiles, which was held in Lusaka in September 2016, with the participation of national statistics offices, central banks and ministries of finance, the Southern Africa Development Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and other United Nations agencies. The meeting reviewed the six drafts of the 2016 edition of country profiles, and also discussed data collection and cooperation in Southern Africa. The meeting raised the awareness on country profiles as, in the words of the Director of the Central Statistics of Zambia: “useful tools for policy advice to member States and regional economic communities”.

143. In addition, the Subregional Office for Southern Africa organized an ad hoc expert group meeting on Harmonizing Data for Better Economic Governance in Southern Africa, in December 2016, in Lusaka. The meeting reviewed a draft study report prepared by the Office on the subject and also deepened the discussion on the role of member States, regional economic communities, the pan-African institutions and development partners in data harmonization efforts in southern Africa. The meeting also provided a useful forum for sharing best practices and experiences on strengthening national statistical systems, and the design and implementation of robust national

strategies for the development of statistics. Key recommendations included the need to ensure that the coordinating role of the National Statistical Systems within the National Statistics Office is streamlined in the national legislation; introduce integrated national statistical data collection schedules as a part of multi-year statistical development programmes; and facilitate a subregional forum to promote exchange of best practices and experiences.

144. In stimulating policy and intellectual dialogue on topical and emerging development issues, the Office convened a special event: Subregional Forum on Developmental Regionalism, Peace and Economic Transformation in Southern Africa. The forum was organized in partnership with the Social Science Research Council (based in the United States of America), in collaboration with the Southern Africa Development Community, and held in Ezulwini, Swaziland, in September 2016. Among others, the forum provided a platform for sharing comparative perspectives on how inter-regional development and the global system affect the object of development regionalism in Southern Africa. In its outcome statement, the forum proffered key policy options and strategies on how developmental regionalism can be consummated and sustained in Southern Africa, for consideration by member States, regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and development partners, in promoting of economic transformation in the subregion. The forum also provided a platform for the Subregional Office for Southern Africa staff members to present preliminary findings of their research papers.

145. The annual meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism for Eastern and Southern Africa, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania in December 2016 and hosted by the East African Community, focused on strengthening regional interventions towards attaining Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. It led to a common position among stakeholders on the need to align their key flagship initiatives with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and the instruments of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism, such as the Addendum to the Business Plan, in so as to enhance the collaboration, synergies and coherence among regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and partners. Consensus reached among the stakeholders included the need for the African Union Commission to engage regional economic communities to a greater extent regarding the implementation of Agenda 2063 as they do with their member States to ensure alignment and linkages of interventions of the regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations to both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063; the Subregional Coordination Mechanism business plan (2013–2017) and operational modalities to be reviewed to reflect to the current priorities of the regional economic communities and the intergovernmental organizations by ensuring that interventions at the regional and subregional levels are explicitly identified and articulated in the business plan.

146. The Subregional Office for Southern Africa provided technical support to the Southern Africa Office of the African Union in facilitating the coordination meeting on the Ratification, Domestication and Implementation of the Legal Instruments Strategy, organized jointly by the African Union, the Southern African Development Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, held in South Africa in November 2016. The meeting noted that any success in achieving objectives of the African Union and the regional economic communities lies in addressing existing gaps in the implementation of their legal instruments at the national level. As a result, a common position emerged on the urgent need to devise a coordinated strategy that can track progress in the domestication and implementation of those legal instruments. Key recommendations included the need to develop toolkits in the form of guidelines for in-country use; assigning clear roles and responsibilities

to stakeholders for protocol monitoring; and developing a monitoring and evaluation system that would track domestication and implementation. The key role played by the Subregional Office for Southern Africa in facilitating this process was applauded in a letter of appreciation (22 November 2016) to ECA from the Southern Africa Office of the African Union.

8. Development planning and administration

147. The main objective of the development planning and administration subprogramme, which is managed by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, is to improve public sector management and development planning in support of economic and social transformation in Africa through training and other activities related to capacity development. The Institute's activities are organized around a portfolio of capacity development and skills training programmes, and policy research and high-level dialogue initiatives, which are aimed at supporting member States in their efforts to achieve the core goal of structurally transforming their economies and societies. It also offers on-demand advisory services to Governments and public institutions, and serves as a forum for alternative thinking on African development.

148. During the year, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning has progressed well towards its target of increasing the number of countries and sub-national regions adopting policies and measures or implementing activities in the area of development planning in line with recommendations made by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning from a baseline of 10 countries to 25 countries so far (biennium target 25 countries). Similarly, progress has been made towards meeting the target of increasing the number of national or subregional public sector departments and institutions applying appropriate new policy approaches in planning and analysis as a result of the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning from a baseline of 30 to 46 countries (biennium target-35). The Institute also made progress towards its target of increasing the number of countries adopting new or enhanced approaches to development policy formulation and management from a baseline of 10 to 27 countries so far (biennium target-25). An impact assessment exercise has been scheduled for the first quarter of 2017 to ascertain the outcomes. In summary, a total of 426 public officials, 40 per cent of which were female (162), benefited during the reporting period from training sessions provided by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning in skills relevant to economic management and development planning. Specifically, participants received skills trainings in areas ranging from the formulation, analysis, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and negotiation of a number of macroeconomic issues as well as sectoral policies, including gender, economic policies for employment, public debt management, regional integration, trade policy, industrial policy, agricultural policy, minerals policy, migration and population, energy policies, development planning, data analysis and microeconomic modelling, social policy, youth and employment, land investments, minerals governance, gender and the environment, and natural resource management. In line with the strategy of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to offer training to personnel in relevant skills that can be of immediate use by member States as they implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, a new course was delivered on domestic resource mobilization and investment, with a key module on illicit financial flows and linked to the structural transformation agenda of Africa.

149. Complementary to the training sessions, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning organized eight development seminars and policy dialogue sessions, which attracted up to 550 participants from across the continent and beyond, including public officials, policymakers, experts,

academics, and representatives from the private sector and civil society. The events provided an occasion to reflect on how to improve development policies. They focused on challenges and opportunities pertaining to the structural transformation agenda, such as the developmental State, industrialization, intra-African trade, private sector development, land policy and governance, natural resources management, minerals fiscal policy, international economic negotiations, corporate governance and migration for development. The events served to influence policy in domains ranging from minerals, industry, regional integration and trade, agriculture, public debt, public finance, resource mobilization and investment. In addition, the seminars and dialogue sessions provided the Institute with an opportunity to broaden its engagement with various other stakeholders, allowing them to contribute to policy review, design and implementation processes. The level of engagement of senior officials at the events is suggestive of their involvement in policy matters and hence prime evidence of the events' influence in policy. Specifically, a round table dialogue session, which was organized within the framework of the course on fundamentals of development planning, held from 2 to 13 May 2016, focused on the Experience of Senegal in Sectoral Planning: The Case of the Agricultural Sector. The session attracted senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, who shared experiences and engaged the course participants on the successes and challenges of sectoral planning. In support of the push towards a unified market (the continental free trade area) in Africa, the Institute held a round table policy dialogue on the premises of the African continental free trade area: "What remains to be done?", where participants examined and proposed solutions to the challenges being faced in the negotiations and implementation of the continental free trade area.

150. Additionally, the Institute for Economic Development and Planning partnered with the African Union Commission to host a meeting of the Scientific Committee of the African Integration Development Review from 19 and 20 October 2017, and the first edition of the Forum on the Evaluation of the Minimum Integration Programme on 20 and 21 October 2017 where complex regional and continental integration challenges were discussed. Furthermore, the Institute for Economic Development and Planning collaborated with the Subregional Office for West Africa to disseminate three ECA flagship reports published this year, namely the 2016 edition of the Economic Report on Africa: Greening Africa's Industrialization, the fourth edition of the African Governance Report on Measuring Corruption in Africa: the International Dimension Matters and the country profile for Senegal. Following the launch and deliberations, policymakers were called upon to translate the recommendations of the Economic Report for Africa into concrete actions. ECA was requested to follow up on the implementation of the actions by individual countries and subregions. The Institute for Economic Development and Planning also collaborated with the Capacity Development Division of ECA on the high-level launch on the theme: 16: Infrastructure Projects for African Integration, held on 15 December 2016 in Dakar at the request of the President of the Republic of Senegal, Mackey Sall.

151. In collaboration with the University of Johannesburg, the Institute for Economic Development and Planning officially launched a Master of Philosophy programme in Industrial Policy on 18 April 2016, with a first cohort of up to 20 public officials (10 fully sponsored by the Institute) from the five subregions of the African continent. Senior officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry of South Africa attended the event on behalf of the Minister and pledged the Ministry's support to this unique programme. The programme's unique appeal lies in its emphasised focus on training the next generation of leaders equipped with skills and knowledge on how to guide Africa in its industrialization efforts. It also benefits from direct access to relevant policy research and lecturers from ECA in addition to the University's strong faculty.

On the back of the success of the first Master's programme, negotiations for a second Master's Degree focusing on mining policy and minerals governance have commenced and a memorandum of understanding is currently under review for formalization.

152. Significant progress has been made in the development of an e-learning platform. A new division focusing on knowledge management and information technology and communication has been created to champion the programme. Subsequently, a training specialist was engaged to undertake an assessment of the relevance and impact of the programme of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning as well as to design a roadmap for the implementation of the e-learning programme. Results of the assessment strongly highlighted the increasing demand and high regard for the interventions of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning by member States and therefore support the need to expand reach as well as attain a more gender-balanced participation through the development of an e-learning platform, which is anticipated to be operational by mid-2017. Alongside that project, the Institute for Economic Development and Planning collaborated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to launch its e-learning programme on 26 September 2016. The 2015 edition of the flagship publication of ECA, *Economic Report on Africa: Industrialization through Trade*, was available at the event and fulfilled the function of knowledge product for instruction. As a clear reflection of the relevance and interest generated by the publication, there were a total of 505 applications received (340 in English and 165 in French), whereas only 250 slots were available (in equal numbers for the two languages). The Institute for Economic Development and Planning has further moved to address this demand for skills and knowledge by embarking on the digitization of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning Library, a repository that holds rich resources and publications going back to the 1960s. The first phase, comprising preparatory cataloguing, indexing and sorting of relevant material, which can be readily digitized, is complete and has yielded over 400,000 pages of historical materials requiring conversion to electronic media to be made widely accessible to the public. The second phase, that is, digitization, is expected to take place over most of 2017, owing to the volume of documents.

153. The Institute for Economic Development and Planning continues to expand its presence in the collaborative network of centres of excellence such as universities, research centres, think tanks and civil society organizations across the continent. During the period under review, the Institute, through ECA, signed partnership agreements with the African Institute of International Law and the University of Geneva. Processes are also under way to consolidate collaborations with the Macroeconomic and Financial Institute Management for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, the Pan-African Parliament, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The Institute has also collaborated on various matters with the University of Manchester and Tsinghua University of China.

9. Social development policy

154. The subprogramme provides support to member States in the design of targeted policies and strategies to realize an inclusive, equitable human and social development agenda. It has helped to raise the profile of social development at regional, subregional and national levels. Its work on social development supports the global and continental development agendas, namely, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, through its analytical and research work, provision of demand-based advisory services, generation of high-quality knowledge products, strengthening of national capacities, policy dialogues and advocacy, and strengthening of data systems.

155. The activities and the significant results achieved in 2016 are organized under six categories.

9.1 Analysis, research and technical backstopping

156. Two studies on the cost of hunger in Africa were launched in Chad and Ghana. They were part of a larger project undertaken in partnership with the World Food Programme, the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency. The launches stimulated interest and discussion among policymakers and various stakeholders in the two countries on the need to tackle under-nutrition decisively.

157. The third review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing is under way and is in response to the call at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development to the United Nations system to assist countries to undertake and build their capacities to review the implementation of the Plan of Action on Ageing every five years.

158. In recognition of the relevance and critical role of older persons in achieving the demographic dividend in Africa, a research report was prepared on ageing and development in the small islands developing States of Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, and Sao Tome and Principe.

159. A number of initiatives to address the opportunities and challenges of international migration in Africa are being undertaken in response to a resolution to establish a high-level panel on migration endorsed at the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, which took place in Addis Ababa in March and April 2016. A secretariat is being set up within the Social Development Policy Division of ECA to support the work of the high-level panel, and ECA is currently developing a comprehensive programme on migration with a strong African narrative.

160. In recognition of the current and future population structure of Africa for the next 50 years, the Social Development Policy Division of ECA is engaged with member States on the need for inclusiveness and “leaving no-one behind”; the approach is to examine the demographic dividend in the context of socioeconomic and gender inequalities so as to harness the demographic dividend. Activities include:

(a) Technical backstopping of the African Union Sub-Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization, and, specifically, its Housing and Urban Development Sub-Committee, for the development of the common African position towards housing and sustainable human settlements, known as the Habitat III Agenda. The Heads of State Summit recognized the role of ECA in facilitating a coordinated framework for African engagement in the process arising from the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Human Settlements (Habitat III) process, and member States responded positively to the common African position.

(b) Leading the Africa regional review process for the development of the New Urban Agenda, which was adopted at the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Human Settlements (Habitat III) in October 2016, the Division prepared the Africa Regional Report of Habitat III in cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and organized consultations with national experts and other stakeholders as part of the process.

(c) Undertaking research and developing knowledge on industrialization and urbanization in the context of preparing the 2017 edition of the Economic Report on Africa, which analyses the drivers, enablers and

levers of the urbanization and industrialization processes to help frame policy recommendations. The report will be shared with ministers of finance, planning and economic development in March 2017.

(d) Participating in and providing inputs into the technical review of the African Union Five-year Priority Programme on Employment, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development for Africa. The contributions of ECA were acknowledged and appreciated by the African Union Commission.

9.2 Development of tools, manuals and guidelines

161. As part of the generation of high-quality knowledge products, three subregional reports on the African social development index for Southern, Eastern and North Africa were produced and launched. The launches were well attended by senior government officials from participating member States, and various stakeholders, and were extensively covered by the media at national, subregional and regional levels thus increasing the policy outreach and influence of the work of ECA. Policymakers found the reports very informative and relevant to their own policymaking processes in dealing with inclusive development.

162. The Operational Guide for Implementing and Monitoring the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014 offers member States clear and specific guidance for implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration.

9.3 Policy dialogue, outreach and partnerships

163. The regional policy forum on tackling inequalities within the context of structural transformation in Africa was organized jointly with the Society for International Development, which drew participants from within and outside Africa. The aim was to contribute to the discussions on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, both of which place a high premium on addressing inequality.

164. A number of communication and dissemination tools are currently being developed around the African social development index, including a webpage, a mobile application and an online platform and e-forum, to increase outreach and foster policy debate around issues of inclusion and equality in Africa. The tools will be developed and become operational during 2017.

9.4 Capacity-building

165. In response to requests for capacity-building on the process and application of the African social development index from member States, regional economic communities and other pan-African institutions, the Social Development Policy Division rolled out customized trainings to government officials from Botswana, Kenya and Mauritania. Other capacity-building workshops were held for members of parliament of the Pan-African Parliament, the secretariat of NEPAD and the secretariat of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. Training on the African social development index was also delivered for senior and middle-level officials and development planners from 20 countries in Africa at a course on social policy for development planners organized by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

166. Such training activities have increased the visibility and impact of the work of ECA and has led to increased demand-driven technical assistance to various clients, including, among others, member States and regional economic communities, in monitoring human exclusion, and has helped to improve the status of ECA in member States, in terms of policy influence, credibility and advocacy. For example, Kenya intends to use the African social development index to inform its fiscal decentralization programmes at the subnational levels to allocate resources to priority areas. Botswana has also indicated that it will use the African social development index results to inform the formulation of

its 2036 national vision plan, currently under preparation, particularly in dealing with social development challenges as identified by the African social development index.

167. Strengthening the capacities of member States in designing and implementing strategies and policies for inclusive and sustainable cities in five African countries (Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Morocco, Uganda and Zambia) to enhance the capacities of policymakers to integrate urbanization in national development strategies to promote inclusive and sustainable cities, building on experiences and good practices from Africa and other world regions.

9.5 Strengthening data systems

168. In view of the implementation and monitoring responsibilities of member States on targets on cities and human settlements in the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, the fifth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa unanimously endorsed the recommendation to establish an African programme on urbanization data and statistics at ECA to strengthen the capacity of countries to harmonize urbanization concepts, indicators and methodologies, and produce and analyse urbanization data and statistics for improved national planning and policymaking in Africa.

169. As part of the Joint Labour Migration Programme for Africa, an initiative is in place to compile and produce labour migration statistics for the African continent. The working group on labour migration statistics, consisting of members from ECA, the International Labour Organization, the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission, will produce biannual reports on labour migration statistics in Africa. The first report was produced in 2016 and widely disseminated among key stakeholders.

B. Technical cooperation: United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation and the United Nations Development Account

1. Regular programme of technical cooperation

170. The regular programme of technical cooperation continues to support four themes, namely, macroeconomic policy, regional integration and trade, development planning, and natural resources contracts negotiation, and contributes to the results under the regular programme of work of ECA.

171. The following achievements were realized during this reporting period:

(a) *Macroeconomic policy*: ECA developed a Programme of Action for the Republic of Senegal following a scoping mission in December 2015 and a technical mission in May 2016. At the Ministry of Economic, Finance and Planning, the Director for Planning expressed satisfaction with the cooperation of ECA in matters of capacity-building.

(i) In light of recent good scores with regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations (the East African Community, the Economic Community of West African States or the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in 2015/2016, and the Southern African Development Community), ECA organized a capacity development workshop for senior staff of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in Djibouti on 2–6 May 2016. The workshop shared the current state of the economy in Africa, regional integration, Agenda 2063 and its 10-year implementation plan, the synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, industrialization, the African Peer Review Mechanism and the costs of conflict, among others. The support to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development was followed by engaging

with senior policymakers on issues pertinent to the advancement of the economies of the region involved with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, through deeper regional integration and cooperation, and to enhance their understanding on the developmental challenges facing the region, and how best to formulate appropriate regional policies. ECA also drafted the capacity development strategy of the Authority, which is expected to be adopted by its member States.

(ii) Curbing illicit financial flows is another area where the subprogramme targeted policy influence. ECA helped organize the inaugural meeting of the Consortium to Stem Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. The meeting took place under the Chairmanship of H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Chair of the African Union/ECA High-level Panel On Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 13 and 14 June 2016. The Consortium will serve as a multi-stakeholder platform to leverage the partnerships established among stakeholders since the release of the High-level Panel report and in turn, providing overall strategic direction for efforts to reduce illicit financial flows from Africa.

(iii) ECA was also called by the African Union for technical support to Donald Kaberuka, its Special Envoy on the Peace Fund. The support explores options that member States could use to raise potential revenues to support the budget of the African Union Commission, including the peace fund. A report prepared by ECA was presented at the African Union Summit in July 2016 in Kigali. Again, such involvement showcases the policy influence of ECA as a strategic partner to the African Union.

(iv) In addition, ECA conducted strategic studies to generate and share knowledge that contributes to promoting structural economic transformation and sustainable development. The studies are *New fringe pastoralism: Conflict and insecurity* (2016) and *Development in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel* (2016).

(b) *Industrialization (regional integration)*: The Extraordinary Summit of the Southern African Development Community, held in March 2015 in Harare, approved the Community's industrialization strategy and road map and reaffirmed the importance of industrial development in poverty reduction and the economic emancipation of the people of the region. The Development Community made an official request for ECA support in order to assist in the development of its action plan for the implementation of the road map and strategy for industrialization in the region. The request is evidence that ECA can effectively influence policy choices and decisions. Furthermore, it is another opportunity to reinforce the message of ECA with regard to industrialization in Africa in order to support economic transformation.

(i) The secretariat of the Southern African Development Community also called on ECA to develop an ICT Observatory for the region. The observatory is being developed in support of industrialization in the Development Community as an intelligence-gathering tool. When completed, the tool will be used to inform the construction of a database, portal and the reports as well as in the operationalization of the regional ICT Observatory, thereby enhancing intra-African trade within the Southern African Development Community region.

(ii) The delivery of advisory services and technical assistance for Angola, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Sierra Leone are also an indicator of policy influence since member States called for ECA savoir-faire in trade and industrialization matters.

(iii) The capacity development initiatives of ECA are to support evidence-based decision-making through the production of outputs that are anchored on solid evidence. A good example is the finalization of Project 16-16-16, a strategic regional integration project in the context of PIDA. As a complement, a study on the harmonization of policies, laws and regulations to enhance investment in transboundary infrastructure will be a framework model law that can ease private sector investment in transboundary infrastructure.

(c) *Development planning and public administration:* In 2016, the thirty-third meeting of the East African Community Council of Ministers, which met on 29 February 2016, and the seventeenth Summit of the East African Community Heads of State, which met on 2 March 2016, approved the Regional Vision for Socio-Economic Transformation and Development, referred to as EAC Vision 2050. The Secretary General of the East African Community expressed his appreciation to ECA for the invaluable technical and financial support towards the formulation of EAC Vision 2015. Based on that satisfactory collaboration, the East African Community requested ECA to support the formulation of the fifth East African Community development strategy, which strengthened further the collaboration.

(i) ECA has been assisting countries in the design and support of national visions, an example of which is the technical support that ECA provided to the Government of Benin to assess the current Vision 2025 that will inform the development of the new institutional framework. The new Vision and the evaluation of the former Vision has been defined and its implementation actors were identified at all levels. ECA has supported the Republic of Guinea in the formulation of a long-term development vision, referred to as Guinea Vision 2040, as well as in its GDP rebasing effort. ECA also supported Senegal in the articulation of a programme of action in the areas of planning and statistics.

(ii) Similar high-level strategic outputs followed by delivery, with multi-disciplinary teams, have been entrusted to the Commission by Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Nigeria as well as other member States that are yet to receive our scoping missions, including Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Rwanda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

(d) *Innovations, technology and management of natural resources in Africa:* ECA contributed by proposing policy options to African countries through knowledge generation and providing support, with the aim of building their capacity to manage natural resources, in particular in the mining sector.

(i) In line with ECA's capacity development strategy, the subprogramme has used policy dialogues to enable member States to take full advantage of the findings of its studies, and to brainstorm on proposed policy options in order to turn them into action. For instance, a high-level dialogue was organized on the impact of urbanization on national development planning in Africa, held in Yaoundé from 7 to 9 June 2016, which led to a consensus to mainstream urbanization into national development planning and strategies. In addition, a high-level policy dialogue was organized on risks in investment on transboundary infrastructure projects in Africa, held in Kigali on 17 and 18 May 2016. The dialogue urged participants to fully integrate transboundary projects into planning at the national and regional levels and into budgeting processes and to take measures to mitigate potential risks.

(ii) Other high-level policy dialogues have also been organized across the thematic areas of the regular programme of technical cooperation, including the following:

- The annual African economic negotiations training workshop, held in Johannesburg from 5 to 9 December 2016. The workshop aimed to assist member States in developing common positions in international negotiations and to equip African negotiators with the skills to secure optimal deals for their countries and region in international bilateral and multilateral negotiations, thereby promoting policies and programmes that strengthen the process of African economic integration.
- A macroeconomic policy dialogue for Gambian senior policymakers, held from 15 to 17 November 2016. The purpose of the dialogue was to enhance the understanding of the senior policymakers in the Gambia of the development challenges facing the country and how best to design and formulate appropriate macroeconomic policies and strategies.
- A policy dialogue on challenges faced by African States in mining and petroleum contract negotiations with special emphasis on stabilization clauses, held in Douala on 26 and 27 October 2016. By bringing together African experts and negotiators the policy dialogue helped to strengthen the negotiators' capacity in such key issues as stabilization clauses.

2. United Nations Development Account

172. The United Nations Development Account provides a common platform for the technical cooperation work of 10 entities of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, five United Nations Regional Commissions, UNCTAD, UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNODC). It was established by the General Assembly in 1997 and is funded from the United Nations regular budget.

173. The objective of the Development Account is to fund capacity development projects in the priority areas of the United Nations Development Agenda that benefit developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The projects serve as a natural extension to the normative and policy activities of the implementing entities in their follow-up to the United Nations conferences and summits in economic and social affairs. The Development Account encourages close collaboration of entities of the United Nations on innovative, strategic, cross-sectoral regional or interregional projects, which draw mainly on the technical, human and other resources available in beneficiary countries.

174. The Development Account is a critical source of funding in support of the ECA regular budget to help African member States address their capacity development priorities. In 2016, ECA has continued to implement its 12 operational projects – benefiting over 35 member States – intended to develop national policies centred on the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic).

175. Specifically, current operational projects under the United Nations Development Account have contributed to the gathering of knowledge in key areas for Africa's transformation, such as the development of competitive regional agricultural value chains, the use of renewable energy, the effective implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism and the capacity for

Governments in Africa to negotiate equitable, transparent and sustainable contracts in extractive industries. Development Account projects also contribute to the creation of knowledge through policy research and practice in the area of development planning and the production of continuous and reliable data by enhancing the capacity of civil registration and vital statistics systems in Africa.

176. In 2016, ECA developed seven new Development Account projects that aim at supporting member States in strengthening evidence-based policy coherence, integration and participatory implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels.

177. Furthermore, the Evaluation Section, in collaboration with subprogrammes and independent consultants, finalized end of project evaluations for two Development Account projects, namely innovative financing mechanisms for new and renewable energy and strengthening capacities of African policymakers to mainstream natural disaster risk reduction. The evaluations assessed and documented the performance, results and outcomes of the projects against its respective objectives and performance indicators. Findings from the evaluations revealed that the projects were well designed and achieved their objectives. One of the recommendations that came out was that gender responsiveness needed to have been strengthened in both projects and in future projects of the same nature.

178. As mentioned in the chapter on statistics, a mid-term evaluation was completed of a Development Account project on strengthening the capacity of African countries to use mobile technologies to collect data for effective policy and decision-making. It was reported by national statistics offices that in all six countries, the project is being implemented, and that they were able to save on average between 20 and 40 per cent of time in collecting and transmitting data. The evaluation also noted that the capacity-building component of the project resulted in more effective and efficient institutions that will contribute towards sustainability of the intervention beyond the lifespan of the project.

C. Executive Direction and Management, and Administration

1. Strategic Planning and Operational Quality Division

1.1 Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

179. The Strategic Planning and Operational Quality Division prepared the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019, for Programme 15, Section 18; Programme 9, Section 11 and Section 23 - Regular programme of technical cooperation. The three sections were presented at the special meeting of the Permanent Representatives of the member States to the Economic Commission for Africa at Addis Ababa, held on 12 June 2017 and endorsed on 15 June 2017 for submission to ECOSOC.

1.2 Executive performance management dashboard

180. During this reporting period, ECA improved its performance management dashboard, drawing from lessons learned and promising practices over its two-year period of implementation. The ECA performance management dashboard is an executive management tool that combines critical strategic, operational and financial information to support timely decision-making. The performance management dashboard supports the sustained, integrated and coherent management of reporting, based on individual performance and is a response to the ECA's new business model of becoming the think tank of reference on African development policy issues. The new performance management dashboard captures two aspects: the substantive side, which includes the refinement of key performance indicators and the methodology for

data collection and analysis; and the technical side, which incorporates the revised web-based executive management tool in order to provide real time data. Since then, ECA published the 2016 mid-year performance report and in January 2017, the 2016 annual report was issued, entitled: Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa (covering the period April 2016 to March 2017).

1.3 Programme and Project Management Manual

181. In addition to improving monitoring tools such as the performance management dashboard, ECA embarked on a three-year project to professionalize programme and project management that aims to: (a) improve accountability and “delivery as one ECA” through a programme approach that is integrated, coordinated, coherent and holistic; (b) achieve and demonstrate strategic outcomes; and (c) enhance staff programme management capacity. As part of the process, ECA’s revised Programme and Project Management Manual replaces the 2010 ECA Project Manual. The new manual provides a comprehensive point of reference for standard operating procedures and programmatic requirements applicable to all programmes and projects implemented by ECA.

1.4 Annual business plan for 2017

182. ECA is one of 21 United Nations entities, and the only Regional Commission, to pilot the United Nations System-wide Action Plan (referred to as UN-SWAP) on gender budgeting through the Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women initiative. As part of this pilot, ECA developed guidelines to track resources (post and non-post) that contribute to the initiative. For the first time, ECA introduced gender markers in the annual business plans for 2016 and 2017, and also a gender budget for 2017. ECA has now established a baseline on gender cost and will be able to track investment on gender per output delivered. Inclusion of gender cost in ECA strategic planning tools, such as the annual business plan, is in line with gender-responsive, accountable budgeting that is aligned with the provisions of the Sustainable Development Goals. ECA is now providing useful experience and learning pointers for other United Nations entities to roll out the gender markers effectively.

1.5 Evaluation policy and plan

183. Guided by the ECA corporate evaluation policy, the evaluation function played a critical role in organizational learning and accountability through evaluations that were undertaken of programmes, projects, policy and strategies. Findings, recommendations and lessons learned from evaluation activities also informed decision-making at the management level of the Commission. Among a number of evaluations undertaken during the period under review, the Joint Financing Arrangement III mid-term evaluation was concluded, and the report and findings covering five subprogrammes were shared with senior management and partners. ECA programmes were deemed highly relevant. The Commission was found to be effectively and flexibly using funds from the Joint Financing Arrangement to produce and disseminate a variety of high-quality knowledge products and services for the use of member States and subregional entities. One of the main recommendations from the evaluation was to improve the results framework in order to enable impact measurement. It was recognized that there were constraints to adopting a more robust results framework aligned with the United Nations Evaluation Group. In addition, the definition of results in the context of existing planning instruments at the secretariat needed to be taken into account. Further, surveys of partners and staff were undertaken successfully during the period under review. The surveys focused on assessing the opinions of partners and staff in respect of the influence that ECA has in the area of knowledge generation and delivery and the perception of the work of ECA. Findings from the surveys revealed that the

ECA business plan addresses the transformative agenda of the continent. Additionally, evaluations for a number of Development Account projects were systematically undertaken. The evaluations assessed and documented the performance, results and outcomes of the projects against their respective objectives and performance indicators.

184. ECA was also audited and reviewed by oversight bodies of the United Nations, namely the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Recommendations from the audits and reviews are shared, implemented and monitored for compliance, lesson-learning and decision-making purposes.

1.6 Operational quality

185. In terms of quality control, reviews of several strategic planning instruments were undertaken in 2016, including the ECA 24-month Programme Performance Review for the 2014-2015 biennium and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019; and the annual report to the Conference of Ministers. ECA published and conducted an internal review of 21 Country Profiles,⁶. A review was also undertaken of the ECA flagship, *Economic Report on Africa*, the theme of which this year is “Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa’s Transformation”.

1.7 Partnerships and resource mobilization

186. In 2016, the Commission continued the implementation of the ECA Partnership Strategy, with a view to enhancing complementarity and development impact, and to responding better to the evolving needs of its member States within the context of new and emerging opportunities and challenges. The Strategy is framed on the premise that Africa’s development challenges and its transformative agenda are of such dimension that no single institution or organization — no matter how well-resourced — is capable of addressing them alone. The new approach to partnerships is forging more strategic and results-based collaborative alliances. Its hallmark view of partnerships goes beyond the mobilization of financial resources to include the sharing of ideas and knowledge, developing synergies, building on comparative advantages and avoiding duplication of efforts.

187. During the year under review, ECA continued its historic partnership with the African Union Commission, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency, the regional economic communities, and the African Development Bank. Jointly, the partners facilitated high-level policy dialogues on advisory services to member States, on the 2030 Agenda and on the agenda adopted by the African Union, Agenda 2063. ECA also continued to work with other United Nations entities, including FAO, UNCTAD, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UN Women, and WHO, with other Regional Commissions (in particular, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA), and with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. ECA also collaborated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to launch an eLearning programme in September 2016.

188. ECA continued to promote its policy campaigns through partnerships with key media entities, such as All Africa, Financial Afrik, IC Group (African Business, New African/African Banker); Jeune Afrique Group (*The Africa Report*, *Jeune Afrique*); CNBC Africa to broadcast areas of interest to policy and business viewers on themes related to macroeconomic policy, finance and trade. Other key partners assisting with the delivery of ECA outputs were non-

⁶ The Country Profiles launched in March 2017 comprised profiles on the following countries: Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tunisia.

State actors, including from the private sector, academia and civil society organizations. In total, ECA entered into 57 new partnerships over the last year.

2. Public Information and Knowledge Management Division

189. During the reporting period, over 2,000 articles referencing ECA were published in the media, as many as 36,338,299 million hits on the ECA website were recorded, and over 600 press releases were distributed to the media with cross-shares on social media. ECA's web and social media presence has added value to Africa's transformation agenda by enhancing the visibility of key research and policy recommendations, thereby influencing the policymaking discourse across the continent. In this regard, over 63,400 combined twitter followers (all seven of the ECA-related active thematic accounts) were recorded in 2016. On Facebook, the combined total of all ECA-related active thematic accounts was 18,678. ECA's Youtube channel with its multimedia content attracted some 27,123 views.

190. In addition, ECA has continued to provide knowledge facilitation services to African professional communities. By December 2016, membership to the African development planners community had risen to 583 active participants from 63 countries, from within and outside the African continent while the African statistical community had 551 participants from 46 countries. More than 253 responses were received for the 17 queries of experts from member States. The African development planners community of practice facilitated discussion sessions based on queries submitted by the community members on several topics, including the following: mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 into national planning frameworks; integrating microfinance and other area development schemes into national development policies and strategies; fragile States and the Sustainable Development Goals; innovative strategies for employment generation and women's participation; applying the T21 model to facilitate development planning; and coordinating and monitoring plans and planning.

191. The African Knowledge for Development Network is a platform that provides support to the Subregional Office for Southern Africa, the Subregional Office for West Africa, the Subregional Office for North Africa, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, and the African Internet Governance Forum, which by December 2016 had engaged 417 active members.

192. The ECA knowledge repository is an online platform for managing and disseminating ECA knowledge products, including publications, conference proceedings, parliamentary documents, flagship reports and policy briefs. Usage tracking continued throughout 2016 with over 258,681 file downloads and over 1,700,000 hits, which reflects the growing credibility and relevance of the Commission's knowledge products.

193. The Access to Scientific and Socio-Economic Information in Africa initiative, known as ASKIA, is an online, one-stop shop for socioeconomic knowledge on and from Africa. ASKIA was updated with interfaces and knowledge resources in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, and a new Arabic interface was completed and launched.

194. ECA has started developing a knowledge hub that will act as a one-stop shop for all ECA knowledge products and services and serve as the main gateway to all knowledge products and services provided by ECA to its member States and development partners. The Knowledge hub is planned for completion in 2017.

195. Furthermore, since having been awarded the International Standards Organization (ISO) 14001:2004 certification in 2013, the Printshop continued to make progress in respect of its environmental management system and operations. The rule of using 100 per cent recycled paper has been in force since

2014, and all conference documents and reports continue to be printed in black and white so as to reduce the use of chemicals. Furthermore, the addition of digital press equipment in 2015 with print-on-demand capabilities has also significantly contributed to reducing ECA's long dependency on offset technologies. All these achievements were recognized by Headquarters and beyond, with ECA being presented with the United Nations 21 Award in the "efficiency" category and the Kodak Green Leaf Award.

196. The role of ECA as a publishing house is increasingly being recognized by the Addis Ababa-based United Nations agencies through its partnership with other organizations for the provision of printing services of paper-based publications including, reports, manuals, brochures and journals. These services are even occasionally extended to the African Union Commission and selected civil society organizations.

197. Lastly, the archives and records management programme also contributed to the enhancement of programme work and "greening" the Commission by simplifying access to, retrieval and sharing of documents and records: in 2016, as many as 15,916 records were digitized and centrally filed. The programme reduced the need for copying, printing and creating duplicate documents and records by implementing a centrally managed enterprise content management system. The archives and records managements programme managed to save 21.9 tons of paper, which, in turn, spared 350 trees. In addition, the programme's disposal of obsolete records freed an estimated 80 cubic metres of storage space. Within the Division of Administration, the programme has been rolled out in 13 functional units, which has enhanced the work of the units, it has facilitated audit requests, the digitization of records, and sharing across ECA.

3. Administration

198. Following the approval of the General Assembly of \$56.9 million to finance the renovation of the Africa Hall, the implementation of stage 3 (design and procurement) began. The detailed design and related tender dossier for the early decanting was completed in February 2017, allowing the procurement process to start. The final design of the main works was also defined up to 90 per cent. As part of the project governance structure, all staff are now on board; the Stakeholders Committee has been established and is meeting quarterly. The Committee's role is to provide support to the Executive Secretary, as the project owner responsible for strategic guidance and in order to facilitate proactive management of the project. The establishment of the Advisory Board is being finalized; as part of Quality Assurance measures, the appointment of an independent risk management consultant is well under way by the Office of Central Support Services. ECA and the Office of Central Support Services have signed a coordination agreement. In addition, the project-specific manual is under final revision by ECA. Regarding the contribution of member States to the project, Mali has donated \$52,192 and Switzerland has pledged to contribute \$100,000.

199. On learning and development, the Commission continues to enhance its learning programme with a view to maximizing skills for the effective implementation of its mandate while providing support to staff members in their career development. To this end, ECA conducted a skills mapping exercise that identified eight skills sets. Of the eight, programme and project management was found to be one of the most needed skills area for staff. To address the programme management gap, ECA is developing a detailed programme management training programme, as mentioned, while continuing its collaboration with the United Nations Office for Project Services, as a certified PRINCE2 agent, to strengthen the capacity of its staff in programme management, using the PRINCE2 model.

200. Early 2017 saw the roll out of Umoja Extension 2 (UE2) for the functional areas of budget formulation, supply chain management, fundraising and donor relationship management, implementing partners (for which a portal is planned), conference and event management, and continuous improvements of Umoja Foundation and Umoja Extension 1 (UE1). Focal points in New York are working closely with ECA functional leads in the design stages of UE2 modules prior to implementation. The focus is on addressing the challenges faced by most offices away from headquarters in the area of business intelligence reporting. The ECA business intelligence working group works closely with the Office of Information and Communications Technology at Headquarters, in business intelligence governance, report development and report testing. ECA also continues to actively participate in the GSDM to consolidate services of personnel administration, payroll, procurement and travel management.

201. The challenges of last year in the areas of user access mapping have been addressed and, as user expertise develops, the number of issue tickets being raised is decreasing significantly. As part of the organizational restructure of the Division of Administration, remaining knowledge gaps in end to processes are being addressed through external training and realignment of work processes within and across sections.

202. ECA continues to invest in Umoja staff training, in particular in cross-sectional training and customized programmes. The focus for 2017 is on building reporting capabilities in the area of business intelligence. ECA will also continue to invest in peer to peer learning activities, train more trainers and the Language Proficiency Examinations, in order to promote skills sharing across sections and divisions and to reduce the impact of the loss of Umoja skills and knowledge through staff mobility.

203. Lastly, ECA is in full compliance with the IPSAS reporting and its various requirements, for example, the Commission achieved 100 per cent compliance with instructions for monthly and annual closing of accounts during 2016. The year-end accounts submission was made before the deadline set by Headquarters, of 28 February 2017, while 100 per cent reconciliation was achieved by processing more than 56,000 bank reconciliation transactions in 15 different house banks under the management of ECA.

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

204. The present chapter provides an overview of the major issues and outcomes of the meetings of the Commission's subsidiary organs, including the five intergovernmental committees of experts of the subregional offices. It highlights the key issues and recommendations from the meetings that need to be brought to the attention of the Commission for action or information.

205. The five intergovernmental committees of experts of the subregional offices meet annually before the Conference of ministers to deliberate on their subregional programme and policy priorities. Following adoption of resolution 943(XLIX) "*Proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019*", which mandated ECA to undertake an independent, comprehensive and thorough review of the intergovernmental structure of the Commission, including the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, the five intergovernmental committees of experts of the subregional offices did not meet during this reporting period, pending recommendations from the review process. Progress on implementation of resolution 943 is reported under Annex I below.

206. The subsidiary organs of the Commission meet once every two years, and comprise: (a) the Committee on Gender and Social Development; (b) the Committee on Sustainable Development; (c) the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration; and (d) the Committee on Statistics. During the present reporting period, only the Committee on Statistics met.

Fifth Meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa - Committee on Statistics

207. The fifth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa was held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 30 November to 2 December 2016 and was co-organized with the 10th Session of Director General of National Statistics Offices. The meeting was attended by delegates from the following 34 member States of ECA: Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, the Comoros, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. It was also attended by a number of development partners supporting statistical development in Africa.

208. The meeting was preceded by the seventh Meeting of the Forum on African Statistical Development on 28 November 2016. The theme of the meeting was strengthening economic statistics to support the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was chosen to highlight the critical role of economic statistics in ensuring inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The meeting discussed the status and challenges in the production of economic statistics in Africa and took stock of the various efforts made towards the modernization of official statistics in the continent to support the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. It also reviewed the status of the implementation of resolutions adopted at previous meetings.

209. Following the deliberation on the issues above, the meeting made recommendations toward strengthening economic statistics to support Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It recommended that all institutions working in statistics including national statistics offices, ministries in charge of planning be involved in the convergence process of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, in the interests of the economy and of efficiency in reporting. Furthermore, the meeting called upon member States to streamline national indicators relevant to Agenda 2063 and indicators relevant to Agenda 2030; called upon pan-African organizations to intensify the capacity-building effort in economic statistics and to take into account the existing harmonized tools developed by other institutions such as the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa. It also invited pan-African organizations to advocate for the implementation of the ministerial decision to allocate 0.15 per cent of the national budget to statistics and to ensure that countries implements the decision.

210. Regarding the revision of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, the meeting called upon the African Union Commission, in collaboration with African Development Bank and ECA, to identify a group of experts representing all African regions to work with DGs to revise strategy in order to respond to African aspirations. The revised strategy will be validated by DGs of statistics before submitting to the Ministers. The meeting also requested the technical team in charge of revision of the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa to develop an action plan to implement the revised the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa, funding plan and monitoring framework with a core set of indicators, as well as look at

the governance structure. It is expected that the action plan will include aspects relevant to the African Transformative Agenda.

211. Other issues covered by the Commission include urbanization data and statistics in Africa; mobile technology for statistical data collection in Africa; African statistical development index; civil registration and vital statistics and the 2020 round of population and houses censuses.

IV. Report of the special meeting of the Permanent Representatives of the member States to the Economic Commission for Africa

Introduction

212. The special meeting of the Permanent Representatives of the member States to the Economic Commission for Africa was held in Addis Ababa, on 12 June 2017.

A. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda and programme of work [agenda items 1 and 2]

1. Attendance

213. The special meeting of the Permanent Representatives of the member States to the Economic Commission for Africa was attended by the following member States: Algeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

2. Opening statements

214. The Special meeting of the Permanent Representatives of the member States to the Economic Commission for Africa was chaired by H.E. Mr. Baye Moutar Diop, Ambassador of Senegal to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative of Senegal to the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa. Ambassador Diop opened the special meeting and welcomed all participants to the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). He explained that the special meeting was convened to give member States the opportunity to consider the statutory issues of ECA prior to their submission to the various organs of the United Nations, including the Economic and Social Council.

215. He presented the provisional agenda, which included the Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa (covering the period April 2016 to March 2017), the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, and the draft resolutions. Mr. Diop recalled that the proposed programme budget was based on the ECA strategic framework for 2018-2019 (E/ECA/COE/35/5-AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/5(II)), which had been approved by member States in 2016 during the ninth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

216. Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Executive Secretary a.i. of the Economic Commission for Africa, welcomed all Permanent Representatives to the special

meeting and thanked them for their participation. He said that following the adjournment of the tenth Joint Annual Meetings in Dakar, a task force had been formed to consider the processes involved in the future organization of the Conference of Ministers. He observed that guidance from Headquarters was being sought in that regard. Mr. Hamdok reiterated that the purpose of the special meeting was to deliberate on the Commission's two statutory issues before they are presented to the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, scheduled to meet in New York on 20 June 2017. He expected the meeting to focus on the three relevant agenda items, which were currently before the Permanent Representatives for their consideration and adoption. Reiterating the remarks of the Chair, Mr. Hamdok referred to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, which was based on the ECA strategic framework for 2018–2019; the latter had been approved at the 2016 Conference of Ministers. He emphasized that the programme budget provided a road map for delivering on the Commission's strategic framework, while taking into account lessons learned from delivery as stipulated in the 2016 annual report and the draft resolutions.

217. The agenda and programme of work were adopted with no amendments:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the provisional agenda and the provisional programme of work
3. Consideration of the Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa (covering the period April 2016 to March 2017)
4. Consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019
5. Consideration of the recommendations and adoption of the draft resolutions
6. Consideration and approval of matters presented
7. Closing of the meeting

B. Consideration of the Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa (covering the period April 2016 to March 2017) [agenda item 3]

1. Presentation

218. The representative of the secretariat presented the annual report on the work of ECA, entitled Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa (covering the period April 2016 to March 2017) (E/ECA/COE/36/5-AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/5(III)).

219. Presenting the 2016 annual report on the work of ECA, the representative of the secretariat briefly reviewed the contribution by ECA to transformation in the continent through its policy influence by way of credible, trusted knowledge products and capacity development interventions. Those took place at three levels: globally, through the development of a coherent framework and an integrated approach to reporting on achievements of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda; regionally, by convening high-level dialogues and meetings such as those of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows and the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development; and nationally, through the targeted, systematic and integrated application of evidence-based knowledge products and capacity development activities.

2. Discussion

220. ECA was commended for the quality of its annual report for 2016. Concerns were raised that, in African countries, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was more visible and that more emphasis was placed on it than on Agenda 2063. It was observed that reports containing many important findings of ECA research, which were mentioned in the annual report, had not been disseminated to African Diplomatic Missions in Addis Ababa. In that regard, ECA was requested to share its products and reports with Diplomatic Missions in Addis Ababa.

221. The Permanent Representatives commended ECA for developing the Regional Integration Index, in collaboration with the African Union and the African Development Bank, and stressed the need to update regularly the index. That was particularly important in the context of the African continental free trade area, the negotiation of which was ongoing, but which was expected to deepen the continent's regional integration. It was noted that the index was an instrument that allowed a rigorous assessment of progress in Africa's regional integration and that the next edition of the report containing updates on the index would be published in 2018. The process of establishing the continental free trade area had to be aligned with ongoing efforts to put in place a sustainable financing mechanism for African Union activities.

222. On the priorities of Agenda 2063 that are not in the Agenda 2030, ECA was requested to align its work with programmes of the African Union, such as the "silencing the guns in 2020" initiative.

223. The Permanent Representatives noted the important role played by the subregional offices in supporting the economic and social development of ECA member States. In that regard, they urged ECA to deploy the necessary human and financial resources in order to enable the subregional offices to play their roles adequately. The secretariat informed the Permanent Representatives that the recruitment of the Director of the Subregional Office for North Africa was being finalized. The importance of ECA support to the regional economic communities, such as the Community of Sahel-Saharan States, was also underscored. To that end, the secretariat informed the Permanent representatives that ECA considered its support to regional economic communities a priority, in its work on regional integration, and had assisted the Community of Sahel-Saharan States in the past in developing its strategy. Another example of ECA support to regional economic communities was the assistance provided to the Southern African Development Community to develop its industrial policy.

224. In terms of geographical representation of ECA staff, the secretariat informed the Permanent Representatives that ECA made every effort to ensure the representation of member States in its workforce.

225. The work of ECA on the development of technology policy was acknowledged. The Commission was nevertheless urged to explore the possibility of supporting technology innovations, including through assistance to technology parks and centres of excellence in member States.

C. Consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 [agenda item 4]

1. Presentation

226. The representative of the secretariat presented the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (E/ECA/COE/36/7-AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/7(III)) and emphasized that the Commission's work over that period was essentially a continuation of its work over the biennia 2014–

2015 and 2016–2017, with due consideration for the development context shaping the region and the Commission's key mandates. The overall level of resources proposed for the biennium 2018–2019 to facilitate the implementation of the ECA programme of work was set at \$212,795,300, of which the regular budget for the three sections (11, 18 and 23) represented \$165,241,400, while extra budgetary resources were projected to be \$47,553,900.

227. The proposed budget reflected a reduction (under Sections 18 and 11) of 1.7 per cent. The net decrease reflects reductions through improved efficiency, technical adjustments relating to the removal of non-recurrent requirements and biennial provision of posts established in biennium 2016–2017.

228. The increase reflected by the proposed budget under Section 23 of 0.8 per cent represented additional funds approved for assisting member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development.

2. Discussion

229. Observations were made regarding the importance of ECA establishing contacts with prospective donors on the extra-budgetary component of the Commission's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, with particular reference to the current difficulties in fund-raising. Further, it was noted that the decrease in official development assistance provided an opportunity for Africa to shape its destiny and prioritize the mobilization of funding from within the continent. At present, for example, ECA was involved in advanced stages of negotiation for funding with the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

230. The Permanent Representatives noted that the current special meeting was an extraordinary measure taken to ensure that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 was ready for review by the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to be held in New York on 20 June 2017 and, subsequently, to go before the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

D. Consideration of the recommendations and adoption of the draft resolutions [agenda item 5]

Resolutions

231. The representative of the secretariat read out to the meeting the draft resolutions (see the annex) in the following order:

- (1) Proposed programme of work and proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018–2019
Programme 15, Section 18
- (2) Proposed programme of work and proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018–2019
Section 23. Regular programme of technical cooperation
- (3) Proposed programme of work and proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018–2019
Programme 9, Section 11

E. Consideration and approval of matters presented [agenda item 6]

232. A number of Permanent Representatives of member States to the Commission expressed the desire to be granted more time to return to their capitals for a clear mandate to deliberate on the two statutory issues on behalf of the Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, and to adopt the resolutions.

233. Following this plea, the Chair proposed and the Permanent Representatives agreed that the silence procedure be applied up to and including Thursday, 15 June 2017, in order to allow for the timely submission of the outcomes of the special meeting for consideration by the various United Nations bodies, including the Economic and Social Council.

F. Closing of the meeting [agenda item 7]

234. The Chair thanked the Permanent Representatives for their participation and contributions. He congratulated the Executive Secretary a.i. for convening the meeting and for his very useful clarifications throughout. The Chair also expressed his particular appreciation for the fact that all relevant documentation had been made available by the secretariat well in advance of the special meeting, which facilitated a smooth process of deliberation and fruitful outcomes.

Annex

Resolutions*

Resolution 953 (L)

Proposed programme of work and proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019

Programme 15, Section 18

The Conference of Ministers,

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

Recalling also its resolution 844 (XXXIX) of 15 May 2006, in which it endorsed the repositioning of the Economic Commission for Africa to respond better to the priorities of the continent, and its resolution 908 (XLVI) of 26 March 2013, in which it mandated the Economic Commission for Africa to establish its new strategic direction and programme structure,

Taking into consideration its resolution 943 (XLIX) of 5 April 2016, in which it endorsed the proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019, and General Assembly resolution 71/6 of 27 October 2016, in which the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 contained in chapter II, section B (ii), of the Committee's report on the work of its fifty-sixth session,¹

Noting the unique dual roles of the Economic Commission for Africa as a United Nations entity whose main mandate is to promote the economic and social development of its member States and as a pan-African institute that aims to achieve a higher level of policy influence in support of the structural transformation agenda of Africa,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa,² which highlights progress made towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063,

Noting that the draft proposed programme of work and proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019 reflect the economic and social development priorities of its member States,

* In the present resolutions, a specific "Programme" mentioned in the title of the resolutions refers to the programme category in the General Assembly's proposed strategic framework for a given period, see the example at http://www.un.org/en/ga/fifth/70/Prop_strat_framework_2018-2019.html. A specific "Section" in the title of the resolutions refers to the section category in the General Assembly's proposed programme budget, see the example at <http://www.un.org/en/ga/fifth/70/ppb1617sg.shtml>

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/71/16).*

² E/ECA/COE/36/5.

1. *Adopts* the proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018- 2019;³

2. *Calls* upon its strategic partners, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the regional economic communities, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, member States, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and donors to support the implementation of the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019.

(Special meeting, 15 June 2017)

³ E/ECA/COE/36/7
AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/7/(III)

Resolution 954 (L)

Proposed programme of work and proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019

Section 23. Regular programme of technical cooperation

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 58(I) of 14 December 1946, which established the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation to support developing countries, least developed countries, countries with economies in transition, and countries emerging from conflict in their capacity-development efforts and all subsequent resolutions on the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation,

Recalling also its resolution 844 (XXXIX) of 15 May 2006, in which it endorsed the repositioning of the Economic Commission for Africa to respond better to the priorities of the continent, and its resolution 908 (XLVI) of 26 March 2013, in which it mandated the Economic Commission for Africa to establish its new strategic direction and programme structure,

Taking into consideration its resolution 943 (XLIX) of 5 April 2016, in which it endorsed the proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019, and General Assembly resolution 71/6 of 27 October 2016, in which the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 contained in chapter II, section B (ii), of the Committee's report on the work of its fifty-sixth session,¹

Noting the unique dual roles of the Economic Commission for Africa as a United Nations entity whose main mandate is to promote the economic and social development of its member States and as a pan-African institute that aims to achieve a higher level of policy influence in support of the structural transformation agenda of Africa,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa,² which highlights progress made towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063,

Noting that the draft proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019 for Section 23 reflects the economic and social development priorities of its member States,

1. *Adopts* the proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018- 2019;³

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/71/16).*

² E/ECA/COE/36/5.

³ E/ECA/COE/36/7

AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/7/(III)

2. *Calls* upon its strategic partners, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the regional economic communities, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, member States, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and donors to support the implementation of the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation, and programmes of work of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019.

(Special meeting, 15 June 2017)

Resolution 955 (L)

Proposed programme of work and proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019

Programme 9, Section 11

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002, which endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the New Partnership for Africa's Development, as decided by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held in Lusaka from 9 to 11 July 2001, should be the framework within which the international community, including the United Nations system, should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development, and called upon the United Nations system, within respective mandates, to align its activities in Africa with the priorities of the New Partnership, in accordance with the priorities determined by each African country, and urges the scaling up of resources for this purpose, and also called upon the United Nations system to enhance its advocacy role and public information activities in support of Africa's development, and urged the United Nations system, in coordinating its activities at the national, regional and global levels, to foster a coherent response, including through close collaboration with bilateral donors in the implementation of the New Partnership in response to the needs of individual countries within the larger framework of the New Partnership, and all subsequent resolutions on the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling also its resolution 844 (XXXIX) of 15 May 2006, in which it endorsed the repositioning of the Economic Commission for Africa to respond better to the priorities of the continent, and its resolution 908 (XLVI) of 26 March 2013, in which it mandated the Economic Commission for Africa to establish its new strategic direction and programme structure,

Taking into consideration its resolution 943 (XLIX) of 5 April 2016, in which it endorsed the proposed strategic framework and biennial programme plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019, and General Assembly resolution 71/6 of 27 October 2016, in which the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 contained in chapter II, section B (ii), of the Committee's report on the work of its fifty-sixth session,¹

Noting the unique dual roles of the Economic Commission for Africa as a United Nations entity whose main mandate is to promote the economic and social development of its member States and as a pan-African institute that aims to achieve a higher level of policy influence in support of the structural transformation agenda of Africa,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa,² which highlights progress made towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063,

¹ Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/71/16).

² E/ECA/COE/36/5.

Noting that the draft proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019 for Programme 9, Section 11 reflects the economic and social development priorities of its member States,

1. *Adopts* the proposed programme budget of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019;³

2. *Calls* upon its strategic partners, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the regional economic communities, the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, member States, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups and donors to support the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and programmes of work of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2018-2019.

(Special meeting, 15 June 2017)

³ E/ECA/COE/36/7
AU/STC/FMEPI/EXP/7/(III)