

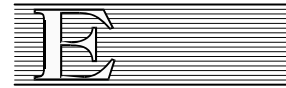


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Implementation of the 2010-2011 Work Programme of the ECA Subprogramme on Food Security and Sustainable Development

Progress Report

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Acronyms

ATPC	African Trade Policy Centre
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
ADF-VII	Seventh African Development Forum
AfDB	African Development Bank
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
A21	Agenda 21
CAHOSCC	Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIRAD	Centre for Agricultural Research for Development
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CTA	Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural development
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West Africa States
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
F&G	Framework and Guidelines
FSSDD	Food Security and Sustainable Development Division
HLC-3A	High Level Conference on African Agribusiness and Agro-Industries
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFDC	International Fertilizer Development Centre
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
LPI	Land Policy Initiative
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NCSDs	National Councils for Sustainable Development
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
PFIA21	Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21
PIP	Programme Implementation Plan
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RAAMIS	Regional African Agricultural Market Information System
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RCM	Regional Coordination Mechanism
RITD	Regional Integration and Trade Division
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDRA	Sustainable Development Report on Africa
UNCSD	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN-ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin American Countries
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Programme

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The implementation of the Food Security and Sustainable Development subprogramme is entrusted to the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).
2. This progress report, which is being submitted to the seventh session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (CFSSD-7), has two main objectives. The first objective is to inform the Committee about the progress made on the implementation of the subprogramme planned outputs for the biennium 2010-2011. The second is to seek guidance and direction from the Committee for the implementation of the 2012-2013 work programme, in the light of the lessons learned during the current biennium.
3. The overall objective of the subprogramme during the current biennium is “to strengthen the capacity of member States to formulate and implement policies, strategies and programmes for achieving food security and sustainable development in Africa, in accordance with NEPAD priorities and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”.
4. The expected accomplishment is “Improved capacity at national, subregional and regional levels for designing and implementing effective policies, strategies and programmes for achieving food security and sustainable development, in line with the NEPAD priorities and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”.

II. MAIN ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING THE BIENNIUM 2010/2011

5. The main thrust of the subprogramme activities during the biennium was:
 - (a) Strengthening the capacity to develop and implement policies, strategies and programmes to achieve food security, including responding to the challenges posed by volatility of food prices;
 - (b) Promoting the development of strategic agricultural commodity value chains for food security and sustainable development in Africa;
 - (c) Supporting countries to achieve sustainable development by strengthening their capacity to achieve balanced integration of environment, and economic and social pillars in the development and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes;
 - (d) Supporting African countries to respond to the urgent challenges posed by climate change; and
 - (e) Strengthening the capacity of African countries to develop and implement land policies.
6. The subsequent sections provide highlights of the key outputs implemented during the biennium.

(a) Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

Substantive servicing of meetings

7. The subprogramme provided substantive servicing to the following meetings:

(a) The subprogramme participated in the Eighteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-18) held in New York from 3 to 14 May 2010. CSD-18 reviewed progress in the implementation of major commitments in the area of sustainable development such as Agenda 21 (A21), the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (PFIA21) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI). At the meeting, the subprogramme, in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), provided substantive technical support to African member States in facilitating the Africa regional discussions and effectively participating in the thematic discussions; and

(b) The subprogramme co-organized and hosted the Sixth Regular Meeting of the UN-Water/Africa Group of Agencies and Partners from 25 to 26 January 2010 and the Third Africa Water Week in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November 2010.

Parliamentary documentation

8. The following three parliamentary reports have been prepared for submission to the CFSSD-7:

(a) *Report to the CFSSD on the implementation of World Summit on Sustainable Development Outcomes:* The report provides an overview of the status of sustainable development in Africa, using selected sustainable development indicators that capture the priority issues for the region. Furthermore, taking into account the importance of the environment and natural resources to the sustainable development of the region, the report highlights the contribution of forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism and mountains to poverty reduction, sustainable growth and development in Africa. It further provides key policy recommendations to foster sustainable development including enhancing the role of the selected sectors in this regard;

(b) *Report to the CFSSD on the development of strategic agricultural commodity value chains for food security and sustainable development in Africa: An overview:* This report is an overview of an initiative by ECA on the development and promotion of regional strategic food and agricultural commodities value chains in Africa. One of the main justifications of this initiative is that African agriculture has failed to keep pace with increasing food demand from a fast growing and urbanizing population; and to generate employment and income opportunities for significant poverty reduction. Moreover, the African food and agricultural market is characterized by extreme fragmentation along subregional, national and even subnational borders. Paradoxically, while being largely closed to one another, these fragmented national and subregional markets are increasingly open to trade (imports and exports) with the world outside of the continent. The cornerstone of the approach to the implementation of this initiative is a pilot scheme in two Regional Economic Communities (RECs) - the Secretariat of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States

(AfDB), the RECs and other United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The objectives of the preparatory process were to facilitate effective coordination and consultations to ensure that Africa adequately prepares for the Conference and arrives at a consensus on its key sustainable development concerns and priorities, to effectively articulate them and to ensure that they are adequately reflected in the Conference outcomes. Several activities were undertaken, with active participation by member States, regional, subregional and regional bodies and major groups, as well as United Nations agencies. These activities include, the preparation and holding of subregional consultative meetings to deliberate on subregional reports on progress towards sustainable development. The other main activities include the preparation of thematic reports for the whole region on the objectives and themes of the Rio+20 Conference, notably on new and emerging challenges for Africa; green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and institutional frameworks for sustainable development in Africa. Drawing on these stocktaking exercises, a regional review report on progress towards sustainable development was prepared. This report will form the basis for Africa's discussions at the Regional Preparatory Conference, which will be held along with the Seventh Session of the CFSSD in October 2011. The outcome of the conference will be submitted for endorsement by the African Union Summit in January/February 2012.

Recurrent publication

11. *Sustainable Development Report on Africa, fourth issue (SDRA IV)*: The theme of SDRA IV is "Managing Africa's natural resource base for sustainable development". This fourth issue is based on a holistic assessment of the status of sustainable development in the region, using indicators that cover selected priority issues in the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in Africa. The report also provides a critical analysis of the contribution of forests, biodiversity, biotechnology, tourism and mountains to sustainable growth and development in the region. In this respect, it highlights best practices, challenges, lessons learned and policy recommendations to strengthen sustainable management of these sectors, so as to enhance their contribution to sustainable growth and development in the region. The report also addresses the inter-linkages between the different sectors, with a view to harnessing synergies in their sustainable management and development. The report is being prepared in collaboration with partners including the UNEP, FAO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Special events

12. The following planned special events were organized:

(a) Seventh African Development Forum (ADF-VII). The subprogramme organized the ADF-VII on the theme "Acting on Climate Change for Sustainable Development in Africa" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 10 to 15 October 2010. ADF VII provided a multi-stakeholder platform to discuss and build consensus on how Africa could effectively tackle the climate change challenge, while leveraging the opportunities that this phenomenon presents. The Forum also deliberated on issues relevant to Africa's priorities and concerns in the ongoing international climate change negotiations. It adopted a Consensus Statement that spells out global and sector-specific actions to be implemented by African governments and all stakeholders, with the support of development partners; and

(b) High-level meeting on public-private partnerships in agro-industry and agribusiness. This event was jointly organized with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), AUC, and AfDB. The main objective of the meeting was to foster the development of agro-industries and agribusinesses in Africa as a pathway to increased economic growth, employment and food security. During this high-level meeting hosted by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative (3ADI) was launched with the following goals: (i) Identifying concrete steps to increase technical know-how; (ii) Improving value-adding technologies; (iii) Fostering market access; and (iv) Strengthening public and private sector partnerships. The 3ADI programme is one of the follow-up actions to the Global Agro-Industries Forum (GAIF) organized by FAO, UNIDO, IFAD and the Government of India in April 2008.

Technical material

13. The subprogramme is developing and maintaining *databases on African agricultural markets*". This activity has been informed by an assessment of existing market information systems in Africa conducted jointly by ECA, the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural development (CTA) and the Centre for Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), which defined a strategy for establishing an ECA Portal of Regional African Agricultural Market Information System (RAAMIS). It was further decided to change the RAAMIS into an African Food and Agricultural Market Information Hub (AFAMIH) that is more comprehensive than the former. An EGM was organized in May 2011 to provide technical inputs to the design of AFAMIH. This EGM built consensus around the initiative and the roadmap for the project implementation process; provided additional information and inputs on the modalities for establishment of the AFAMIH, and developed an action plan for the creation of the AFAMIH and built partnerships to push the initiative forward by establishing a continental network. In this connection, the experts suggested renaming the initiative, "African Agricultural Market Information Forum" (AAMIForum) which, in addition to access to existing subregional market information systems, will provide policy analysis and advocacy products for enhanced market intelligence. The development of the AAMIForum website is underway.

(c) Technical cooperation

Training courses, seminars and workshops

14. The following workshops were held:

(a) *Workshop on institutional and strategic frameworks for sustainable development*: This workshop took place from 7 to 9 March 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It was designed as an integral part of Africa's regional preparations for Rio+20, to be held in Rio, Brazil in 2011. The main objective of the workshop was to examine and adequately define the institutional framework for sustainable development in Africa, taking into account existing institutions at regional and subregional levels. It was also intended to examine institutions, policies and strategies for sustainable development at the national level, taking into account the extent to which such institutions incorporate key requirements of sustainable development, including balanced and integrated development, and intra and inter-generational equity issues. The workshop provided the opportunity to further disseminate the findings of the two ECA-led studies on National Councils for Sustainable Development (NCSDs) and

National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSDs), and to obtain relevant updates from countries and selected agencies. The workshop was attended by more than 90 policymakers and experts from economic, social, and environment ministries and agencies of ECA member States, AUC, AfDB and RECs. United Nations agencies and development partners were also represented;

(b) *Regional seminar to validate the regional level indicator framework and indicators for sustainable development for Africa:* This seminar was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 10 to 11 March 2011. It was held back-to-back with the workshop previously described, as the two meetings share the same feature of being an integral part of Africa's regional preparations for Rio+20. The main objective of this seminar was to conduct a thorough review of the proposed sustainable development indicator framework and compendium of indicators, taking into account the need for a well-framed and robust analysis and Africa's priorities and specificities. The meeting was attended by more than 100 policymakers and experts from planning, finance, economic, social, and environment ministries and agencies, national statistics offices of ECA member States, AUC, AfDB and RECs. It was an opportunity for them and for various United Nations agencies to share views and propose recommendations on the way forward towards systematically measuring and tracking progress on sustainable development in the region, within the framework of the SDRA process; and

(c) *Workshop on Trade and environment linkages for policymakers from RECs and member States:* Jointly with ECOWAS, and in collaboration with UNEP, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) as well as the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC), the subprogramme organized the workshop on Trade, Environment and Sustainable Development for policymakers from the ECOWAS Commission and its member States in Accra, Ghana, from 24 to 26 January 2011. The Workshop was attended by over 50 policy makers and experts from ECOWAS member States as well as from the ECOWAS Commission, ECOWAS parliament, ECOWAS specialized institutions and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA).

Field projects

15. The following field projects are being implemented by the subprogramme:

(a) *Supporting land policy formulation and implementation in Africa:* Key activities already implemented in this field project include: (i) Making the Framework and Guidelines and the Declaration of African Heads of State and Government on Land available to African stakeholders; (ii) Disseminating and popularizing these documents widely across Africa, mainly through regional and subregional events such as the African Presidential Round Table on land, organized in Dar es Salam in August 2010; (iii) Organizing the official launch of the implementation phase of the Declaration of African Heads of State and Government on land, which included a high-level panel on foreign direct investments in land; (iv) Reorganizing and expanding the African Task force on Land to include experts from all subregions and improving the governance structure (especially the Steering Committee) of the Land Policy Initiative (LPI); (v) Developing the Implementation strategy of the AU Declaration on Land, including the organization of an African Experts Group meeting on the implementation strategy; (vi) Communicating with RECs to prepare them to take the lead of the implementation process of the Declaration at the subregional level; (vii) providing technical support, on request, to RECs and member States in land policy related processes; and (viii)

organizing and facilitating high-level forums on foreign direct investment in Africa's agricultural lands;

(b) *Capacity-building in disaster risk assessment and management in Africa:* This project aims at enhancing the capacity of experts from the AUC, RECs and River Basin Organizations (RBOs) to assess disaster risk and damage, and design recovery plans; disseminating and applying disaster risk reduction/management information and tools through improved coordination between the AUC, subregional disaster risk reduction platforms and focal points within the RECs, RBOs and ECA, and the technical support institutions in the respective subregions;

(c) *Study on the cost of hunger and child malnutrition in Africa:* The subprogramme and the AUC Department of Social Affairs, with the support of the World Food Programme (WFP), are conducting a study on the social and economic impact of child undernutrition in 12 African countries. The objective of the study is to inform decisionmakers and different stakeholders about the cost African societies are already paying for not controlling this problem. The expected outcomes of the study are to: (i) Increase awareness among African leaders and development partners on the nature and magnitude of nutrition problems in Africa and their implications for the development of the continent, and advocate for increasing intervention to curb the present trends; (ii) Advocate for renewed focus, commitment and support by member States, in the wake of the worsening nutrition status of vulnerable groups; and (iii) Stimulate action at the national and regional levels that will lead to improved nutrition outcome by providing guidance on strategic areas of focus. In this regard, task forces were established at national level and workshops were organized in five countries to train the established national task forces.

(d) *Study on public-private partnerships for agribusiness and agroindustry development in Africa:* The subprogramme, together with the FAO Infrastructure and Agro-industry Division, has developed an analytical framework to appraise the national development context, trends and policies as influencing the relevance of and need for agribusiness public-private partnerships (PPPs). This collaborative work also aims at drawing lessons on challenges and specific issues that need to be considered in the development and implementation of PPPs. Within the developed analytical framework, case studies have been conducted in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. The results of these studies will be used to develop guidelines for designing effective PPPs for agribusiness development in African countries.

(e) *Promoting bio-fuel development for sustainable development in Africa:* In collaboration with the Regional Integration and Trade Division (RITD) of and the AUC Infrastructure and Energy Department, the subprogramme is conducting a policy study aimed at developing a policy framework for bioenergy development in Africa, drawing from a comprehensive assessment of opportunities, challenges and risks for bioenergy expansion in the region. The expected outcomes of the policy document are: (i) the development of Africa's bioenergy policy framework; and (ii) Better information for African member States and other stakeholders on the emerging challenges, opportunities, risks and related policy options of relevance to the sustainable development of bioenergy. The policy document is being finalized, and will be submitted to a validation workshop in November 2011. The validated draft bioenergy policy framework will be tabled before the next meeting of African Ministers responsible for energy for approval, and then submitted to the AU Summit in January 2012 for endorsement; and

(f) *Climate and development programmes in Africa:* This field project is an integral element of the joint AUC-ECA-AfDB Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme. Its activities are implemented by the ECA-based African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) that the subprogramme helped develop and implement. The Centre is involved in policy analysis and advocacy, capacity-building and knowledge management. In the area of policy analysis, ongoing activities include the preparation of sectoral papers on climate finance challenges and opportunities. (for example, papers on financing energy access in the context of low carbon development and understanding climate finance) and a synthesis report on fast-start financing in preparation for the Seventeenth Conference of Parties (COP 17). ACPC is also preparing a report on national and subregional strategies on low carbon development in Africa and documents on energy access in Africa. In addition, the Centre is undertaking a programme of work on various mitigation options and mechanisms for Africa, such as REDD+, LULUCF and carbon finance, including the preparation of papers on “Fossil fuel futures in the context of carbon constrained future”, “Opportunities for integrating policies for renewable energy and climate change in Africa”, “Critical issues in bio-energy: exploring the opportunities, constraints and trade-offs” and “REDD+ governance and institutions in Africa”. In the area of capacity-building, the Centre has initiated a fellowship programme with nine fellows currently on board and three more expected by December 2011.

16. Furthermore, ACPC is undertaking climate adaptation knowledge management. To this end, papers are being prepared on:

- (a) Climate change and water in Africa: Analysis of knowledge gaps and needs;
- (b) Climate change and water resources in Africa: position paper on climate change impacts and opportunities;
- (c) Management of ground water in Africa including transboundary aquifers: implications for food security, livelihood and climate change adaptation;
- (d) Climate change and agriculture: Analysis of knowledge gaps and needs,
- (e) Climate science, data and information in Africa: situation analysis, gaps and policy implications;
- (f) Vulnerability and climate change hotspots in Africa - mapping based on existing knowledge;
- (g) Assessment of Africa’s climatic records and recording networks including a strategic for rescuing of climatic data;
- (h) Climate change and agriculture in Africa: the nexus and situation; and
- (i) Agricultural water management - a key to productivity and climate change adaptation in Africa.

17. These research activities are going hand in hand with the ACPC knowledge management platform and user interface being built. The ACPC website has been launched and will be updated regularly. Major advocacy activities include the holding of the first Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA), the co-convening of the

Africa Pavilion and other activities at the Conference of Parties (COP17). Other advocacy activities include raising awareness about climate change impacts across Africa through regular ACPC bulletins and media releases on the key activities mentioned above.

III. OTHER OUTPUTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

18. The subprogramme has made significant progress to complete the implementation of the following outputs:

Non-recurrent publications

19. The subprogramme is finalizing work on the following four non-recurrent publications:

(a) *Developing strategic agricultural commodity value chains for food security and sustainable development in Africa*: This publication draws from different inputs, including regional assessment studies; regional consultations undertaken in COMESA and ECOWAS; fact sheets on selected strategic commodities value chains as derived from regional value chain assessment field studies; and an Expert's Report including recommendations on the Regional Strategic Food and Agricultural Commodity Value Chain (RSFACVC) Development and Guidelines from a High-Level Symposium;

(b) *Food security in Africa: Challenges, opportunities and policy options*: Following the 2007-2008 food crisis and recent developments in the dynamics of global-level factors affecting food security, this non-recurrent publication aims at revisiting the premises, drivers and substance of existing food security policies in Africa. More specifically, the objectives of the publication are to: (i) Critically review and characterize past and current food security policies; (ii) Review trends in import-dependency and food insecurity in Africa; (iii) Review experiences, responses, and lessons learned from the recent global food crisis including global and African regional/subregional perspectives; (iv) Identify and analyze changes in key global-level factors (markets, climate change, biofuels, Foreign Direct Investment in land) affecting food security; and (v) Formulate recommendations for future food security policy options;

(c) *Tracking progress in land policy formulation and implementation in Africa*: This non-recurrent publication will build on some of the preliminary activities undertaken in 2009 including the preparation of a paper on "monitoring and evaluation of land policy processes in Africa" and a presentation made at a conference of experts on land. These two activities serve as the baseline for the non-recurrent publication on monitoring and evaluation of land policies in Africa, which is being prepared by the subprogramme within the framework of the AUC-ECA-AfDB LPI; and

(d) *Climate change and development in Africa: Priorities and policy options*: This non-recurrent publication builds on the main background documents and outputs of the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF VII), including the issues papers, the Compendium of Proceedings and the Indicative Action Plan. The objective of the publication is to provide a synthesis report for policy makers and the wide range of other key stakeholders on climate and development highlighting priority issues, opportunities, challenges and policy responses.

20. Two EGMs and a symposium will take place during the last quarter of this biennium:

(a) *EGM on monitoring and assessing progress on sustainable development in Africa*: The EGM will peer-review the draft of the SDRA IV and provide experts' comments and suggestions to improve this flagship publication of the subprogramme. The meeting will be jointly organized by ECA and partner institutions which collaborated in the preparation of SDRA IV: UNEP, FAO and the CBD Secretariat;

(b) *EGM on developing strategic agricultural commodity value chains for food security and sustainable development in Africa within the context of NEPAD/ Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)*: This meeting will be jointly organized by ECA, AUC and FAO in collaboration with other partners, and serve to peer-review the non-recurrent publication on the same theme; and

(c) A symposium on the development of strategic agricultural commodity value chains for food security and sustainable development in Africa will be held to disseminate the outputs of the work of the subprogramme in this crucial area.

IV. RESULTS

21. The main results from the implementation of the above activities undertaken during the biennium are the following:

(a) The Seventh African Development Forum (ADF VII) brought together over 1000 of Africa's top political leaders and policymakers, as well as policy shapers, including the private sector, civil society and academia. The forum contributed to increased awareness of these stakeholders, and generated commitment and agreement on actions, from stakeholders and partners at all levels, to effectively mainstream climate change concerns into development policies, strategies, programmes and practices in Africa. The Forum adopted a consensus statement of more than 50 recommended actions, resulting in an indicative action plan with more than 50 project ideas for acting on climate change for sustainable development in Africa. Key recommendations from the forum were also used to reinforce Africa's negotiating position at the climate change negotiations of the 16th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP16) and Cancun Mexico. The work of the African Climate Policy Centre is further contributing to enhancing knowledge, awareness, advocacy and capacity of member States to address climate change for sustainable development in Africa;

(b) Technical and financial support to the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) and AMCEN contributed to strengthened consensus around the common African negotiation position on climate change. Among others, the report on the implications for Africa of the negotiating text on Long-term Cooperative Actions under the Convention (LCA) was updated in time for the Thirteenth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN-13). The updated report was well-received and often cited at the Third Meeting of the African High-Level Expert's Meeting on Climate Change that was held back-to-back with AMCEN-13;

(c) In partnership with the AUC, UNEP and UNIDO, Africa's regional inputs and perspectives were successfully fed into the 18th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management, Mining and Sustainable

Consumption and Production (including 10-year framework of programmes). This is evidenced in the report of the Session, which adequately articulates the concerns and priorities reflected in Africa's outcome document to CSD-18;

(d) The workshop on institutional and strategic frameworks for sustainable development contributed to enhanced awareness and knowledge networking among 90 policymakers and experts from economic, social, and environment ministries and agencies of ECA member States, the AUC, the AfDB and the RECs, on the institutional and strategic frameworks needed to promote sustainable development at national, subregional and regional levels. The workshop adopted concrete recommendations to enhance the establishment of institutions and formulation and implementation of strategies and programmes for sustainable development;

(e) The workshop to validate the regional-level indicator framework and indicators for sustainable development for Africa enhanced awareness of more than 100 policymakers and experts and agreed on an indicator framework to be used for tracking and monitoring sustainable development in Africa through the SDRA. These are critical to formulation and adoption of policies and programmes that integrate the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development in a balanced manner;

(f) The workshop on trade, environment and sustainable development enhanced the awareness and capacity of 46 policymakers and experts from the ECOWAS Commission and member States, who adopted recommendations of concrete actions aimed at formulating and implementing concrete actions on coherent trade and environment policies and programmes at national and subregional levels. The workshop further called on ECA and the ECOWAS Commission to undertake a knowledge management programme on trade and environment linkages;

(g) The subprogramme contributed to increasing the number of subregional and regional partnership agreements and technical cooperation programmes with regional organizations, RECs and other partners. In this regard, three partnership programmes have been developed between ECA, AUC, FAO, RECs and other regional and subregional partners to promote regionally-integrated value chains for strategic food and agricultural commodities. These partnership programmes are: ECA/FAO/AUC at the regional level, and the ECA/FAO/ECOWAS and ECA/FAO/COMESA at the subregional level. The commodities focused on are rice, livestock and maize. The Joint AUC/ECA/AfDB Land Policy Initiative has led to two partnership programmes with ECOWAS and UEMOA for establishing a land policy centre and a land policy observatory, respectively. The technical support provided through the LPI has also contributed to enabling Uganda, Burundi and Mali to design their respective land policies to promote food security, sustainable growth and development; and

(h) The subprogramme carried out a comprehensive, Africa-wide assessment of food security policies with a view to identifying challenges, opportunities and pertinent policy options for addressing future Africa food security concerns in light of the rapidly changing dynamics of the global food market, biofuel sector and climate change. Through an EGM of more than 20 reputable regional and international food security experts, the subprogramme built consensus around recommendations of priority actions to enhance food security in Africa.

V. LESSONS LEARNED AND THE WAY FORWARD

22. Climate change is an urgent challenge that is already undermining progress towards achieving sustainable development, including the targets set out in the MDGs. Yet, climate change also provides the opportunity to pursue an equitable and sustainable development path. Efforts are therefore needed to strengthen the capacity of African countries to address climate change, including taking advantage of mechanisms emerging from the on-going international climate change negotiation. In order to enhance the delivery of strong and coherent assistance to member States, adequate support should be provided to the AUC, AfDB and ECA ClimDev-Africa Programme, with a view to realizing its effective implementation through the full operationalization of its AfDB-based Special Fund, ECA-based African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) and the AUC Climate Change and Desertification Unit.

23. Climate change negotiations have demonstrated that Africa's voice is more effective when it is articulated around a common position. It is therefore crucial to provide strong support to CAHOSCC to enable it to effectively mobilize political commitment and provide political leadership in regional and international climate change processes and programmes.

24. In order to accelerate progress toward sustainable development in Africa; there is a need for stronger institutions and renewed political will for sustainable development at all levels. Moreover, coordinated support to member States and RECs is needed to scale up the development and implementation of national sustainable development strategies. In this regard, development partners should pay more attention to initiatives that promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development, as this will help minimize overlaps and conflicts, promote efficiency of resource use and ensure sustainability of gains made. In addition, the AUC, ECA and AfDB, in the context of the joint Secretariat, must spearhead the development and implementation of a comprehensive programme on sustainable development to support RECs and member States to implement their sustainable development priorities, including the outcomes of Rio+20.

25. In this connection, the 2007-2008 food crisis and recent developments in the dynamics of global-level factors affecting food security have highlighted a major weakness in current food security policies, which are largely premised on the availability of reliable supply of food at affordable prices from the global markets. However, recent events have shown that food supply from global markets is increasingly becoming unstable, unreliable and expensive. This points to increasing risks and foreign-exchange costs associated with food security strategies based on heavy dependency on food imports. African countries must thus critically rethink their food security strategies, with a view to enhancing reliability and sustainability, based on greater self-sufficiency, especially at subregional and regional levels. This, in turn, should be done within the framework of dedicated policy, institutional and investment efforts targeted at fostering a structural and sustainable transformation of Africa's agriculture and rural economy in the changing global context.