



Economic Commission for Africa

Ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development and
the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Addis Ababa, 16 June 2015

**Harnessing innovations, technologies and management of Africa's
natural resources for transformation: strategic approaches, results,
challenges and opportunities**

I. Introduction

The impressive economic growth experienced by African countries in the past decade has not led to significant poverty reduction. About 47.5 per cent of the African population still lives below the \$1.25 per day poverty line. Growth, which is mostly driven by over-dependence on raw export of the continent's rich and abundant natural resources, with little or no local value addition, has not been inclusive and has not resulted in job creation, especially for a growing youth population. There remain challenges of social equity and the equitable sharing of the benefits of development across populations. At the same time, the region continues to witness environmental and natural resources degradation and depletion and shocks as a result of climate change.

The above scenario calls for a transformative agenda with, at its centre, economic growth that is inclusive, generates jobs, promotes resource efficiency and value addition to Africa's natural resources, while ensuring the sustainable use of ecosystems goods and services for current and future generations. The Special Initiatives Division of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) supports African countries in their efforts to develop and implement policies and strategies that promote these ideals through cross-cutting and programmatic initiatives in its four main areas of work, namely, green economy and natural resources management, climate change, mineral resources development and new technologies and innovations.

II. Objectives of the Special Initiatives Division

The Special Initiatives Division supports member States in their efforts to adopt development strategies that improve the management of mineral resources, minimize environmental risks and ecological destruction, and create an enabling environment for

moving towards green and knowledge economies. The Division also supports member States in building resilience to the impacts of climate change. As mentioned earlier, the Special Initiatives Division brings together four critical drivers to support Africa to achieve its transformative agenda:

(a) Green economy and green growth

A new approach to economic growth, green economy seeks to build on and enhance the Earth's natural capital while maximizing the economic benefits and minimizing social inequalities. Work in this area enables African countries to understand the implications of a green growth pathway and to better harness opportunities offered by the transition to green economy and green growth for Africa's transformative agenda.

(b) Technology and technological innovations

Technology has a critical role to play in ensuring sustainable development in Africa, including the sustainable exploitation of its natural resources. Work in this area seeks to help African countries to apply new and emerging technologies and innovations to meet their development aspirations.

(c) Mineral resources development

Given Africa's natural resources endowment (in particular minerals), natural resources should form the backbone of Africa's transformative agenda. The Division's work in this area supports African countries' efforts to ensure mineral resource exploitation improves economic performance, benefits the local population, and protects the environment.

(d) Climate change

Africa is the least responsible for man-made anthropogenic change, but is the region most susceptible to climate change shocks, and with the least capacity to reverse these impacts. The Division's work in this area seeks to provide data, information, services and tools for managing the risks associated with climate change, supporting policies and strategies that build climate resilience in key development sectors, and promoting low-carbon inclusive development pathways.

III. New Technologies and Innovation Section

A. Objectives of the Section

Science, technology and innovation are the key drivers of economic growth and sustainable development of countries and regions. The New Technologies and Innovation Section of the Special Initiatives Division was established in 2013 as a result of the Commission's restructuring exercise. Seeking to build on the work that ECA was already doing in the areas of information and communications technology (ICT), science and technology, through such initiatives as the African Information Society Initiative and Science with Africa, the Section focuses on research, policy development and analytical work to help member States to adopt new technologies and innovation policies and strategies needed to build technical competencies and entrepreneurial capacity. The Section seeks to innovate as well as to put in place efficient mechanisms to acquire appropriate technologies. The research

undertaken will also help countries to assess the impact of new technologies on economic and social development.

B. Strategic approaches

Technology and technological innovation have a critical role to play in driving Africa's efforts to achieve sustainable development, including the inclusive and sustainable exploitation of its natural resources. The Section aims to help African countries to harness new and emerging technologies and innovations to meet their development aspirations. In this regard, the following are the strategic approaches to the Section's work:

1. Integrated policy approach

The Section contributes to creating an integrated science, technology and innovation policy and system in development planning. The Section supports member States in their efforts to build a knowledge-based economy, by helping them to formulate, implement and evaluate policies and strategies in new technologies and build national innovation systems.

2. Policy research and analysis

The Section carries out empirical assessments and analytical studies in key areas of importance to Africa's transformation agenda. The Section also assesses the role that new technologies and innovations play in economic growth and transformation.

3. Measuring new technologies and innovation for development: ICT and technology

Benchmarking progress made within the continent and globally is key for measuring the success and progresses achieved by countries in applying new technologies and innovation for their development. In this regard, the Section works to establish a set of key indicators for measuring the adoption of new technologies and innovations, with country profiles and review reports at the regional level.

4. Enhancing national systems of innovation and policy leadership

The Section's work is grounded in creating inclusive knowledge-based economies by helping countries to build nationally owned and led policy development, systems and implementation strategies.

5. Building strategic partnerships

Given that science, technology and innovation is a multidimensional policy theme, the Section leverages partnerships within the Special Initiatives Division, other ECA divisions, the subregional offices, the African Union, the regional economic communities, African regional and subregional organizations, other United Nations entities, academia and the research community to enhance delivery on its mandate in an efficient and effective manner.

C. Priority areas of policy research and knowledge generation

Informed by the Section's conceptualization of an inclusive knowledge-based economy and strategic approaches, the following are priority areas of policy research and knowledge generation:

1. Innovation systems and policy research

This work is designed to help member States to make informed policies and strategies. Research in this area will focus on national trends in research and development investment and outputs, technical competencies and innovation performance. It will also assess the complex web of interdependencies that provide the knowledge, expertise and resources for innovation activity and the incentives and infrastructure for creating a favourable innovation ecosystem.

2. Country profiles

The Section prepares country profiles on technology and innovation trends.

3. Technology development and transfer

This work focuses on national and regional trends in flows of technology, investment in technology development, transfer mechanisms and the technology transfer practices of multinational corporations, with a particular focus on key priority areas including health and wellbeing, agriculture, communication, green and clean energy and smart technologies, the environment and manufacturing.

4. Governance of technology

This activity assesses the trends and practices in the governance and use of intellectual property rights, innovation management, standards and certification, market intelligence and the impact of international and regional technology-related arrangements and their impact on Africa's transformation agenda.

5. New and emerging technologies and industries

This activity assesses the level of access to, and the diffusion and impact of new and emerging technologies in Africa. It also explores the emergence of regional innovation hubs and clusters, and the opportunities they present for technological and economic leapfrogging.

6. Youth and innovation

This work identifies strategies that unlock the potential of young people to innovate in various sectors, including the creative industries, housing and tourism.

7. Enablers of innovation

This work focuses on tracking and analysing socioeconomic and sociopolitical environments that shape innovation diffusion and adoption in the marketplace, including fiscal policies, standards, political regimes and procurement.

8. Follow-up to and monitoring trends in building an inclusive information society in Africa

Based on the 10-year review of the implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society, including the outcomes and the vision for the Summit beyond 2015, the focus is on carrying out surveys and research on benchmarking the implementation of the global Summit targets in Africa beyond 2015.

9. Improving access to broadband with a view to building the knowledge economy

Given that improved access to broadband is a key driver of economic growth and the knowledge economy, this work will focus on undertaking policy research in areas such as broadband infrastructure and services, pricing, legal and regulatory environment, broadband and regional integration and cooperation, with a view to benchmarking international developments and offering comparative analysis across countries and subregions to provide policy recommendations for considerations by African policy- and decision-makers.

10. ICT and economic growth

The role of ICT for productivity and growth remains at the centre of technology and social development studies. Research has shown a strong positive relationship between investment in ICT and growth in GDP, although some experts believe that the effectiveness of new technologies is overestimated. In this context, it is imperative that the contribution of ICT to economic growth in Africa be assessed, in view of the large resources that continue to be committed to ICT and related sectors. To this end, the Section will establish key indicators, methodologies and a framework for analysing and preparing analytical reports on the continued contribution of ICT to economic development and growth in the continent by considering selected country case studies.

11. High-level senior experts dialogue on science, technology and innovation

While science, technology and innovation are recognized as key drivers of development and growth, both at the global level and within the continent, there is not enough investment in science, technology and innovation to be able to accelerate growth in the continent. This work will focus on facilitating an annual senior experts dialogue on key issues of importance to the continent in the field of science, technology and innovation policies and implementation in Africa, backed by policy research on key thematic areas. With support from the Section, ECA and other partners, the high-level dialogue will drive key policy issues on the continent and follow-up on implementation.

D. Challenges and opportunities

A number of member States have shown an interest in new technologies and innovation to address their transformation agenda, and continue to rely on the support ECA provides in adopting new policy measures and implementing new technologies in this sector in transforming their economic development. This requires additional resources.

Furthermore, globally, social and economic development is increasingly driven by the digital revolution, and African countries have stepped up efforts to embrace new technologies and innovations to drive their transformation agenda. Key priorities that member States have identified for future growth and transformation include cyber-security, open (government) data, measuring the impact of ICT on economic growth, ensuring universal access to broadband, and transforming government services and other socioeconomic sectors through e-government, e-health, e-education, e-employment, e-agriculture, e-environment, and e-sciences. Cyber-security in particular has become growing concern in Africa, affecting many businesses, including small and medium enterprises. In order to expand the opportunities and benefits offered by ICT in building a knowledge-based economy in Africa, there is a need to put the necessary legal and regulatory environment in place. In addition, measuring and benchmarking the knowledge economy is gaining momentum on the continent.

With regard to strengthening regional integration, member States are also keen to receive the support of ECA, through policy research, capacity-building and knowledge-sharing on the adoption and harmonization of policies at the regional level for deploying new technologies and innovation for their development priorities. This need and commitment on the part of member States constitutes a strategic opportunity that ECA must leverage to effectively deliver its work on new technology and innovation.

IV. Green Economy and Natural Resources Section

A. Objectives of the Section

The Green Economy and Natural Resources Section of the Special Initiatives Division was established in 2013 as a result of the Commission's restructuring exercise. The Section's main objective is to contribute to the body of knowledge and enhance understanding on the implications of the inclusive green economy paradigm for Africa's transformation. This is being realized through policy-relevant research to inform the formulation and implementation of policies that foster inclusive green transformation for optimal benefits from Africa's key natural resources and related sectors.

The Future We Want, the outcome document adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), describes a green economy as one of several tools and approaches to achieve sustainable development. According to the document, the green economy should "contribute to eradicating poverty as well as sustained economic growth, enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth's ecosystem". The Section's conceptualization of the green economy draws broadly on this definition and is underpinned by four critical considerations: first, achieving balanced outcomes in the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental); second, improved human well-being and social equity; third, enhancing resource efficiency; and fourth, harnessing opportunities for low-carbon development.

B. Strategic approaches

The following are the strategic approaches to the Section's work on inclusive green economy:

1. **Inclusive green economy is contextualized within Africa's structural transformation:** Africa's "structural transformation" drives the Commission's policy research and engagement with its clients, including member States. The Section's approach is to explore how an inclusive green economy can foster structural transformation in the region.
2. **Integrated policy approach:** the Section promotes the development of integrated approaches that strengthen institutions and mechanisms for the effective implementation of inclusive green economy policies and strategies.
3. **Step-wise or progressive realization of inclusive green economies in Africa:** the Section recognizes that countries are at different stages of development and underscores the role selected priority sectors in the economy play, not only as key drivers of the economy, but where targeted investments could spur inclusive green growth and in the process generate lessons that could inform the transition.
4. **Catalysing and stabilizing role of enablers:** the Section is cognizant of the fact that a lot can be achieved through carefully crafted inclusive green economy policies. However, in order to be more effective, policies need to be adopted and implemented alongside other enablers such as good governance and institutions, financing, technology development and transfer, capacity development and trade facilitation.
5. **Promoting sustainability – enhancing national systems and policy leadership:** the Section's work is grounded in long-term sustainable and inclusive national perspectives to growth and development. As such, the Section's approach is to build on and support nationally owned and led policy development, systems and implementation strategies.
6. **Building strategic partnerships:** Given that green economy is a multidimensional policy theme, the Section leverages partnerships within the Special Initiatives Division, other ECA divisions, the subregional offices, African regional and subregional organizations, other United Nations agencies, academia and the research community to enhance delivery on its mandate in an efficient and effective manner.

C. Priority areas of policy research and knowledge generation

Informed by the Section's conceptualization of an inclusive green economy and strategic approaches, the following are priority areas of policy research and knowledge generation:

- (a) Examining the implications of the transition to an inclusive green economy in the context of Africa's transformation agenda;
- (b) Leveraging opportunities for inclusive green growth, and economy in Africa in the context of the region's structural transformation, with emphasis on key sectors;
- (c) Enabling measures for an inclusive green economy in Africa;

- (d) Planning tools and methodologies to support integrated assessments for inclusive green growth, and economy policies;
- (e) Inclusive green economy as a tool for realizing a new social contract in Africa;
- (f) Applying low-carbon and climate-resilient development that supports an inclusive green economy for Africa's sustainable transformation and development.

D. Furthering the Section's work: risks and opportunities

1. Risks

(a) Inadequate understanding of the concept

The concept of the green economy is relatively new. As such, countries are at various stages of knowledge in terms of designing and implementing green economy policies and strategies. This lack of adequate knowledge about the concept, and institutional and capacity constraints, may slow the pace of appreciation, buy-in and implementation of inclusive green economy policies by member States.

(b) Political economy of the green economy

The different pathways and choices of strategies and building blocks to an inclusive green economy will depend on national development objectives and political and institutional contexts. Therefore, the transition to inclusive green economies is not only a technical issue of design and implementation but also a political choice. In that regard, it is critical to understand and assess the political factors that influence inclusive green economy and their implications for transition and structural transformation. These factors include: institutional and legal frameworks, financing, inertia in moving away from the business-as-usual or unsustainable growth path, vested interests, scepticism and a lack of understanding of the green economy concept, and short-term national development priorities. These factors define the boundaries of acceptable policy choices and influence not only the design, implementation and evaluation of inclusive green economy initiatives, but also those where investments are conceived as feasible and financially sustainable. They also influence how win-wins and trade-offs are analyzed. Political economy considerations can affect the Commission's work on inclusive green economy, as member States may not fully engage in the process and own outputs.

(c) Institutional capacity

A key challenge in the effective design, implementation and monitoring of inclusive green economy policies is institutional and administrative capacity at all levels. Inclusive green economy is a relatively new and evolving concept, and capacity for analysis is therefore still very low. An integrated development planning approach puts additional strain on institutional capacity. The breadth and depth of capacity development interventions needed to support the development and implementation of inclusive green economy policies and strategies is enormous, with significant financial and human resource implications.

2. Opportunities

(a) Mandate of ECA on the inclusive green economy

The Commission's mandate on the green economy in Africa provides a good opportunity and platform for the Section to respond to various calls for support from countries in strengthening their capacity to formulate, adopt and implement inclusive green economy policies in the context of accelerating structural transformation in the region. The calls from countries are featured in the Africa consensus statement to Rio+20; the outcome document of Rio+20; the outcome document of the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting for the Rio+20 follow-up process; and the resolutions of the seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, held in 2014. ECA also has a convening power that offers a comparative advantage for sustained engagement and policy influence.

(b) Strategic focus of ECA: linking inclusive green economy and structural transformation

The Section's work strategically links two contemporary African development outlooks or paradigm shifts: inclusive green economy and structural transformation. The Section's approach of investigating the linkages and harnessing the synergies between the two puts the Section in a strategic position, enabling it to better understand the underlying issues and how to effectively support member States in the design, implementation and assessment of inclusive green economy policies that foster structural transformation. This approach will further enhance the Commission's policy relevance and influence in the region.

(c) Green economy: emerging concept, emerging opportunities for engagement

The green economy is a new and evolving concept, in terms of policy measures, knowledge and evidence on the outcome of policy choices. Promoting the green economy is inherent in several new policy initiatives; indeed, several countries in Africa are adopting green economy policies and strategies or integrating green economy principles into new development plans. Given the Commission's positioning in Africa's institutional landscape, the emergence of green economy policies provides ECA with the opportunity to further engage with member States on inclusive green economy in the context of structural transformation.

(d) Commitments by member States and partnerships

Member States have demonstrated increasing interest in the green economy. This is evidenced by commitments made at several regional and global forums, including at sessions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and Conferences of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The adoption of the African Green Economy Partnership by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, for example, is a strong signal that Africa is committed to implementing the green economy agenda to further its sustainable development aspirations. This interest and demonstrated commitment constitute a strategic opportunity that ECA, a member of the partnership, must leverage to effectively deliver its work on green economy.

(e) Research, knowledge generation and knowledge platforms

The future of green economy policies and strategic frameworks will, in part, depend on current and ongoing knowledge generation initiatives. The Commission's focus on policy-relevant research and being a think tank of reference on African development means significant knowledge will be generated to feed into and influence global and regional discourses on the green economy. This will provide further opportunities to enhance the work of ECA. The Commission's membership of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform also provides a global platform for dissemination of outputs and results.

3. The road ahead: fostering Africa's structural transformation through inclusive green economy

Role of the Section and short- and medium-term strategic outlook

The Section is committed to supporting Africa's transformative agenda, working in partnership with other ECA divisions, key actors and stakeholders. The following areas outline the Section's short- to medium-term outlook. These areas are essential in order to consolidate the results achieved and to realize the full potential of inclusive green economy in the context of sustainable structural transformation and development in Africa.

(a) Support consolidation and innovation in policy design and implementation

- (i) Deepen policy research and strengthen evidence in the ongoing work streams and engagement with member States and partners;
- (ii) Support member States in strengthening context-specific, evidence-based, integrated and inclusive green economy systems, through demand-driven capacity development, technical advisory services, knowledge products, and policy dialogue;
- (iii) Facilitate exchange and documentation of good practices, lessons learned, replicable interventions, innovative approaches, gaps and challenges in designing, building, strengthening and expanding green economy frameworks for structural transformation;
- (iv) Develop and/or enhance analysis and policy tools on the essential elements and successful policy and implementation options for inclusive green economy that fosters structural transformation;
- (v) Mobilize extra budgetary resources in order to effectively respond to the needs of member States in the design and implementation of inclusive green economy policies.

(b) Strengthen and promote partnerships and coordination

- (i) Build on the existing global and regional frameworks for the green economy to identify actors and recognize value addition, comparative advantages, common

goals and strategies, with a view to enhancing policy relevance, coherence and effectiveness.

(c) Facilitate knowledge generation and exchange, and capacity-building

- (i) Bring together practitioners, policymakers, stakeholders and researchers to share experiences, discuss challenges and solutions, and disseminate learning through mechanisms such as communities of practice, knowledge platforms and South-South exchanges;
- (ii) Develop guidelines on effective policy design and implementation for inclusive green economy in the context of structural transformation;
- (iii) Support learning, knowledge development and dissemination;
- (iv) Support member States in capacity-building, which is critical to ensuring that countries are equipped with the necessary tools that support priority setting; programme design, development and implementation; impact assessments; and appropriate monitoring and performance evaluation frameworks.

V. African Minerals Development Centre

A. Background

The Africa Mining Vision (AMV), adopted in February 2009 by African Union Heads of State and Government, sets the continental framework for making the mining sector more responsive to African economic and social needs. The Vision seeks to create a “transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of Africa’s mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socioeconomic development”. As a strategy, the Vision attempts not only to address the sector’s isolation from mainstream social and economic activities, but also to create win-win outcomes for all stakeholders.

The Vision’s key tenets integrate all three pillars of sustainable development, including fostering sustainable development principles based on environmentally and socially responsible mining; optimizing knowledge and benefits of finite mineral resources at all levels of mining and for all minerals; harnessing the potential of small-scale mining to improve livelihoods and integration into the rural and national economy; building human and institutional capacities towards a knowledge economy that supports innovation, research and development; developing a diversified and globally competitive African mineral industry which contributes to broad economic and social growth through the creation of economic linkages; fostering a transparent and accountable mineral sector in which resource rents are optimized and utilized to promote broad economic and social development; and promoting good governance of the mineral sector in which communities and citizens participate equitably in mineral assets and in the distribution of benefits.

To implement the Vision, in 2012 the African Union Heads of State and Government approved the establishment of the African Minerals Development Centre to provide strategic technical support to the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and member States. The Centre, which is part of the Commission’s Special Initiatives Division, became formally operational in August 2013. Its primary mission is to work with African

Union member States and their national and regional organizations to enable mineral resources to play a greater transformative role in the development of the continent through increased economic and social linkages, in order to address the limited developmental impact of the sector. The work of the Centre is guided primarily by the AMV Action Plan, which comprises nine programme clusters of activities aligned around the key tenets of the Vision, as well as a crosscutting component for policy, regulations and their harmonization. More recently, the Centre developed a Country Mining Vision Handbook to guide countries to domesticate the Vision at the national level. Together, these three documents – the Africa Mining Vision document, the Action Plan and the Guidebook – are the principal formal instruments for implementing the Vision.

B. Objectives

The Centre aims to enhance the capacity of member States and the regional economic communities to formulate and adopt policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks for the management of mineral resources in line with the Africa Mining Vision. The Centre is intended to become a facilitator of choice for African Union member States to achieve the Vision.

C. Strategic approach

The Centre is unique in its comparative advantage as the single organization in the sector that integrates approaches to mineral development in the manner demanded by the Vision. It leverages its technical capacity by establishing broad partnerships, both within and beyond the continent. The Centre's approach is guided by the principle of division of labour, that is that the collective efforts of partners in transforming the mining sector are greater than the sum of their individual contributions. The primary partners of the Centre include the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa and key units within ECA. In addition, a number of multilateral development partners, the private sector and civil society organizations have expressed interest in collaborating with the Centre to realize the Vision.

The Centre's interventions specifically target capacity-building and advisory and technical support services to regional economic communities and member States in key areas of the mineral sector, including policy design, mineral sector governance and promoting the emergence of economic linkages, including infrastructure, local content, beneficiation and regional and national resource corridors.

D. Priority areas of work and expected outcomes

In achieving its mission, the Centre's priority work areas for implementing the Vision focus on:

- (a) Providing technical support for the implementation of the plan's activities;
- (b) Identifying and addressing gaps and areas of need in member States;
- (c) Undertaking and coordinating policy research to develop policy strategies and options for realizing the Vision;

- (d) Developing a continuous advocacy and information dissemination campaign including websites and discussion forums to engage various stakeholders;
- (e) Undertaking monitoring and evaluation activities and generally providing corrective action to maintain the relevance of interventions to the Vision;
- (f) Providing think-tank capacity for embedding the Vision into Africa's long-term development.

The Centre's Business Plan organizes the work areas around seven results-oriented streams: policy and licensing; geological and mining information systems; governance and participation; artisanal and small-scale mining; linkages, investment and diversification; human capital and institutional capacities; and communication and advocacy.

The high-level and long-term development impacts expected from the Centre's activities include:

- (a) A centre that enhances the capacity of African mining countries to derive economic and social benefits from implementing the Africa Mining Vision;
- (b) A mining sector which contributes significantly to the development of African mining economies based on consistent development-oriented mineral policies and regulatory frameworks across Africa;
- (c) Enhanced use of geological and geospatial information to manage long-term developmental outcomes in African mining countries;
- (d) A well-governed African mining sector that is socially and environmentally accountable, and provides broad benefits to stakeholders;
- (e) A viable and sustainable artisanal small-scale mining sector with increased income for the sector and for surrounding rural communities, leading to a better quality of life;
- (f) A mining sector which makes a significant contribution to African resource-based industrialization through intensive economic and social linkages;
- (g) A skilled and knowledge-driven mining sector which delivers greater economic and social benefits as a result of its high productivity levels;
- (h) Improved social and economic development options through a free flow of information among all stakeholders around the Vision, the Centre and mineral-based transformation;
- (i) A "movement" of champions to support structural change and transformation of the African mining sector.

E. Key outputs

Since its establishment, the Centre has made significant progress in implementing the Africa Mining Vision. The Centre has produced significant knowledge products and provided technical advisory services to member States, the African Union Commission and the regional economic communities through its different workstreams. Some of the important achievements include:

1. Development of a Country Mining Vision Handbook to domesticate the Africa Mining Vision

This how-to guide was developed using the Book Sprint methodology. The document provides a practical step-by-step guide, setting out how countries can apply the Vision in their own context. It facilitates the articulation of a vision, including the emergence of a new social contract for the sector that extends beyond political cycles. The guidebook remains the main tool used by the Centre and its implementing partners, including UNDP, to support countries' minerals and development related activities.

2. Production of evidence-based policy work

In collaboration with the Macroeconomic Policy Division of ECA, the Centre supported the work of the High-Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows by launching a study that reviews tax design administration in four mineral-exporting countries, namely the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The study reviews the regulatory and fiscal policy framework in relation to mineral taxation and its impact on the domestic mobilization of revenue from the mineral sector. The output would lead to policy recommendations for optimizing tax regimes and possible tax policy and regulatory frameworks for curbing illicit financial outflows from Africa.

3. Integration of gender into the mining sector

In collaboration with the Africa Centre for Gender, the African Minerals Development Centre launched a gender and mining research study to review existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks in the mining sector, including artisanal small-scale mining, and propose recommendations that integrate gender equality and equity into mining policies, laws, regulations, standards and codes, thereby advancing women's economic empowerment. The Research Project on Women in Artisanal Small scale Mining also aims to explore opportunities for productive collaboration between large-scale mining corporations and small-scale mining operations.

4. Preparation of a gap analysis of African geological survey organization capacities

Important decision support tools were also developed, including a template and methodology to guide the integration of the Africa Mining Vision into national policy and regulatory frameworks.

5. Provision of on-demand technical support to implement member States' Country Mineral Visions

The Centre successfully initiated strategic planning at the country level to ensure alignment of the legal and regulatory framework for the mining sector in Lesotho, resulting in an AMV-compliant minerals and mining policy. The Centre also reviewed the mining fiscal regime in Guinea and its compliance with the Vision, which resulted in the design and development of a model mining agreement for the second Simandou iron ore block due for bidding. In collaboration with the World Bank and the UNDP Country Office, the Centre supported the organization of the first edition of the Ethiopian Forum on Extractive Industries, to discuss a strategic mining assessment funded by the Government of Canada. Similarly, the Centre conducted a thorough assessment of the Eritrean mining sector with a view to aligning the country's mineral policies with Vision. Follow-up technical assistance in capacity-building for environmental management of mining will be provided.

6. Strengthening of cooperation with implementing partners to support in-country work

The Centre hosted a meeting on the implementation of the UNDP Africa Regional Project on Extractives in support of the Africa Mining Vision. The meeting reviewed the then draft step-by-step guide and reaffirmed partnerships between UNDP, ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank as implementing partners of the Centre. At the request of UNDP, the Centre also developed a shortened version of the step-by-step guide to support countries in undertaking the Country Mining Vision process within the framework of the extractive project.

7. Strengthening of the capacity of member States and stakeholders for effective contract negotiations

The Centre supported three short courses conducted by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP). The training courses consisted of mineral policy and contract negotiations for parliamentarians and civil society organizations as well as mineral economics and mineral governance

F. Furthering the Centre's work: challenges, opportunities and lessons learned

The relative lack of awareness of the Africa Mining Vision poses a formidable challenge to its implementation. While member States have committed at the continental level to the Vision, translation into country-owned mining visions remains a work in progress. Political will at the country level is uneven among member States. In general, the political and bureaucratic elites have yet to recognize the multi-sectoral and integrative approach to mineral policymaking and implementation that is so central to the Vision.

To address this challenge, the Centre has developed a communications strategy and finalized the recruitment of a communications officer, whose role will be to scale up advocacy efforts for greater ownership of the Africa Mining Vision by member States. Furthermore, following the success achieved with the Sierra Leone delegation's visit to the Centre, the Centre will adopt a more pragmatic approach by proactively engaging with countries by organizing briefing seminars for them in Addis Ababa.

Finally, the multiplicity of players in Africa's extractive sector scene and the resultant competition for visibility and influence pose an important challenge. The lack of coordination of international donors and their affiliate civil society organizations imposes a burden on countries that crowds out the Vision. However, the Vision's comparative advantage remains its ability to frontload development while other frameworks backload the development dimension until revenue starts flowing from the sector.

VI. African Climate Policy Centre

A. Introduction

The African Climate Policy Centre is a hub for demand-led knowledge on climate change in Africa. It was set up in the light of the need to significantly improve availability and use of climate information on the continent. The Centre strengthens the use of such information for decision-making purposes by improving analytical capacity, knowledge management and dissemination activities.

The Centre has three broad activity areas around which its current work programme is arranged: first, knowledge generation, sharing and networking (consisting of research, knowledge management, peer learning and outreach activities); second, advocacy and consensus building; and third, advisory services and technical cooperation (comprising capacity mobilization, capacity building and technical assistance).

The Centre is an integral part of the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) programme, which is a joint initiative of ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank.

Besides acting as the secretariat of the ClimDev-Africa programme, the Centre's other core functions include delivering on the policy component of ClimDev-Africa by establishing a policy basis for climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Centre is committed to assisting African countries to prepare for and participate in global climate negotiations. In addition, it supports the efforts of African Governments in mainstreaming climate change concerns into development policies and frameworks, and guides and facilitates the implementation of ClimDev-Africa field operations.

B. Strategic framework

To facilitate effective and holistic support to African Governments, ECA entered into a strategic collaboration framework with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank. Within the ClimDev-Africa consortium, the African Union Commission brings to the table its comparative advantage of effective engagement of the continent's political leadership at all levels, and uses the African Union's structures to advance the climate change agenda throughout the continent. The Commission also hosts the Climate Change and Desertification Unit, whose mandate is to address the climate change and desertification nexus within the consortium. Lastly, the Bank provides financial resources and grants to the programme, through its ClimDev-Africa Special Fund. The goal of the Special Fund is to pool resources for sustainable development and, in particular, poverty reduction, by preparing and implementing climate-resilient development programmes that mainstream climate change information at all levels in Africa.

The Centre takes guidance from a number of ongoing processes and activities. These include the African Union Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and related instruments, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the African Development Forum, the 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, the Global Climate Observation System, the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology, the African Ministerial Conference on Water and memorandums of understanding with other partners.

The Centre serves regional economic communities, Governments and communities across Africa. The Centre is currently working with Benin, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Rwanda and Senegal to address the countries' priorities with a view to building resilience to the adverse effects of climate change.

C. Specific objectives

(a) Strengthen the capacity of African countries to participate more effectively in international climate negotiations, particularly the development of a comprehensive and equitable post-2015 climate agreement, and to benefit from the emerging carbon-trading system and adaptation and mitigation financing;

(b) Enhance the capacity of African countries to develop coherent policy frameworks for coordinating adaptation and mitigation investment and climate information and knowledge generated at all levels;

(c) Improve the capacity of member States and regional economic communities to mainstream climate-related concerns into their development policies, frameworks and plans;

(d) Ensure a solid foundation of applied climate science and assessments of climate vulnerability, risks and impacts;

(e) Assist in identifying sectoral priorities and responses for managing climate risks, and guide the related investment process over the upcoming decades;

(f) Support efforts aimed at addressing the urgent challenge of strengthening the social, economic and technical resilience of the poor and most vulnerable against extreme climate events.

D. Challenges

1. Capacity of beneficiaries

One challenge for ClimDev-Africa is the limited capacity of beneficiaries with respect to climate science, planning and practices. This has caused some delays to agreed work, and highlights the need to strengthen capacity to understand and use climate science across Africa. The programme also faced delays in relation to the time beneficiaries took to process and implement agreements, and the ability of beneficiaries to comply with reporting requirements.

2. Number of requests for support

With increased ClimDev-Africa visibility and influence, the Centre has recently been receiving more requests than it can handle to support African countries in implementing activities to build resilience to climate change impacts. In an attempt to cope with the increased demand, the Centre is in the process of expanding its team of senior climate change experts. When it reaches full capacity, the Centre will have in-house expertise in disciplines including climate change, agriculture, water, energy, governance and natural resources.

E. Emerging opportunities

1. Climate research

Science-informed and evidence-based policy, planning and practices are essential in ensuring that adaptation measures minimize the negative impacts of climate variability and change on various human, natural and socioeconomic systems, and that development is sustainable, more resilient and less vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change. This is particularly urgent in Africa, where climate variability and change already have huge impacts on food security, water availability, human health, and social and economic infrastructure.

It was in part to address these challenges that the Africa Climate Research for Development Agenda was pioneered by the 2013 Africa Climate Conference, which was organized by the World Climate Research Programme, the African Climate Policy Centre and the University of Dar es Salaam. The Conference brought together more than 300 participants, including decision makers, representatives from research funding agencies, scientists from various disciplines, and practitioners from across Africa and around the globe.

The Africa Climate Research for Development Agenda is organized around four core pillars. Groups from the research community have developed African climate research proposals that are clustered under each pillar. These address research priorities that must be supported and implemented to advance current knowledge frontiers, bridging the gap between social and biophysical research, between research and application, towards the delivery of a coordinated climate research agenda for Africa that brings research outputs to address user needs.

2. Support programme for African small island developing States

In January 2014, ECA, through the African Climate Policy Centre, launched a programme to support African small island developing States in reviewing their vulnerabilities to the adverse effects of climate change and to devise robust response strategies that reduce the exposure of its peoples. After carrying out reconnaissance missions to the six African small island developing States, where staff from the Centre met government officials, assessment reports for each country were prepared. In April 2014, the Centre hosted climate change focal points from all the African small island developing States in a three-day workshop, to further crystallize the priority interventions, in advance of formal collaboration agreements between the countries and ECA. The Centre has identified climate information services as the entry point for addressing the needs of climate-sensitive development sectors such as agriculture, water and health.

3. Providing support to the African Group of Negotiators

ECA and its ClimDev-Africa partners have traditionally supported the African group of negotiators in the negotiations process for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In view of the new climate change agreement expected in Paris in December 2015, ECA, through the African Climate Policy Centre, and together with other partners, has formulated an intensive support programme to equip the African group of negotiators with necessary knowledge, tools and evidence to meaningfully participate in the climate change talks. The activities that the Centre has lined up are set out below.

4. Stocktaking of Africa's journey in the negotiations on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

In January 2015, ECA hosted the African group of negotiators and legal experts in climate change for a three-day expert group stocktaking exercise on Africa's journey in the climate change negotiations. The event kick-started the process of appraising Africa's participation in the negotiations, with a view to guiding strategic positioning in future negotiations and informing the way forward, including compliance and operationalization of decisions of the Conference of the Parties. The study will assess the historical evolution of Africa from Kyoto to Paris to better gauge strengths and gaps in negotiating processes to date, and determine how these can serve as reference points for a strong robust stance in Paris, at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties, and beyond.

5. Land use in the negotiation text

A workshop held in Nairobi from 6 to 8 April 2015 led to a text entitled "Issues related to agriculture under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)". The text addresses issues pertinent to agriculture in Africa, including early warning systems and contingency plans, and assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems in Africa. The text makes specific recommendations at policy, planning and practice levels. In addition, a paper was also prepared on gender and climate change, especially in the forestry, energy and agriculture sectors.

6. Legal review and drafting of contributions to the negotiation text

ECA, through a young lawyers forum established by the African Climate Policy Centre as a support arm to the climate negotiations, will work towards enhancing the capacity of African legal experts engaged in the negotiation process for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in reviewing the draft negotiating text, and thus enable the effective participation of African countries in shaping the outcomes of a new treaty on climate change in Paris.

7. ClimDev-Africa Youth Programme

In order to capitalize on and harness Africa's predominantly youthful demography, ECA recently launched a youth platform for climate change in Africa. Given the intergenerational aspect of climate change, which can potentially transfer the burden to young people, the goal of the programme is to engage them in designing climate change solutions. The programme hopes to provide a helpdesk to support concrete implementation of climate change actions in member States.

8. African group of negotiators workshop

Traditionally, under the auspices of ClimDev-Africa, ECA organizes an annual workshop for the African group of negotiators. The workshop serves as a mechanism through which negotiators identify key issues in the Convention process and reach consensus and common positions. In addition, the negotiators use the forum to put forward their requirements for research and technical support to both ECA and other partners.

9. Regional dialogue

In the run-up to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties, where a new climate agreement will be tabled, the African Climate Policy Centre has planned five regional forums in Africa (East, West / Central, North, African Small Islands and Southern) where key stakeholders will engage in debate to raise awareness on what is at stake for Africa in the new climate agreement. The objective of the events is to mobilize the engagement of Africans from all spheres of life in the lead up to the meeting in Paris, to increase public awareness of climate change and the roles ordinary citizens can play in the global governance of climate change, and to elicit critical reflection on the Convention process among Africans.

10. Support to African countries on preparing their intended nationally determined contributions submissions

In the first quarter of 2015, in response to requests from African countries, the African Climate Policy Centre launched a support programme to assist countries in fulfilling their obligation to submit their intended nationally determined contributions by November 2015. These activities commenced with an expert group meeting held on 10 and 11 April 2015, where a methodological framework was developed that aims to harmonize countries' approach while reflecting their special circumstances and national context, and taking into consideration their vision for development.

11. Africa Pavilion during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties

The continuing demand for physical networking space for African participants at sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the continued salience of Africa-specific issues in the construction of a post-2015 climate agreements, and the need to amplify African voices in the global arena means that the Africa Pavilion held at the seventeenth session¹ should be replicated in Paris. As a result, ECA, in collaboration with France and other partners, has launched the planning process to create an Africa Pavilion in Paris.

The Africa Pavilion is expected host various side events on Africa, bringing together all interested participants to address themes of fundamental importance to the continent. The side events programme will be synchronized with the programme of the session so that speakers

¹ The seventeenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Durban, South Africa, in 2011, saw the launch of a dedicated discussion and exhibition facility called the Africa Pavilion. The Pavilion was the hub of African events and a venue for informal networking among high-level policymakers from African member States, regional economic communities, multilateral organizations and representatives of bilateral organizations.

and participants can readily transition between the Pavilion and other events. The Pavilion will allocate time slots for round-table discussion panels, Africa Day, events organized by the regional economic communities, other side events organized by other organizations such as river basin commissions, countries and their ministries, civil society organizations, universities and others. The Pavilion will culminate in a high-level Africa Day.