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Fellowship programme of the Economic Commission for Africa

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BACKGROUND

The mandate of the Economic Commission for Africa to promote the economic and social development of its member States, foster intraregional integration and promote international cooperation for Africa's development. ECA has an important and dual role as the regional arm of the United Nations and as an integral component of the pan-African multinational institutional landscape.

In October 2012, ECA embarked on a strategic retooling and reorientation process to ensure that it remains relevant in the light of the rapid pace and ever-changing dynamics involved in the development of Africa. The restructured fellowship programme shall continue to provide an avenue for knowledge-sharing and opportunities for young people to contribute to the shaping of policies at the regional level. It is better aligned with the new capacity-building strategy of ECA and responds proactively to the capacity development needs of member States.

Based on the fellowship framework, fellowship categories have been designated to fit within the four key areas identified by ECA as being fundamental for ensuring regular, relevant and sustained contributions to the African transformative agenda. These categories are aligned with the four of objectives of the ECA capacity development strategy: ensure that ECA policy research and statistics are strategically relevant; ensure that ECA knowledge delivery is strategic, a "good fit" and that inputs, products and engagement are sound and influential in promoting the African transformation agenda; ensure that ECA operationalizes an integrated and coherent approach to capacity development through effective interdivisional cooperation and substantive partnership; and ensure alignment of incentive and support systems.

Under the guidance of mentors, fellows are assigned to teams. As members of those team, they are expected to make contributions towards achieving the assigned unit's work programme while gaining a broad view of the Commission's mandates, policies and functions. ECA presents an invaluable opportunity for young people, especially Africans, who are highly qualified, motivated, innovative and talented in areas relevant to the commission's work,

such as macroeconomic policy development, regional integration and industrialization, natural resources management and development planning and statistics.

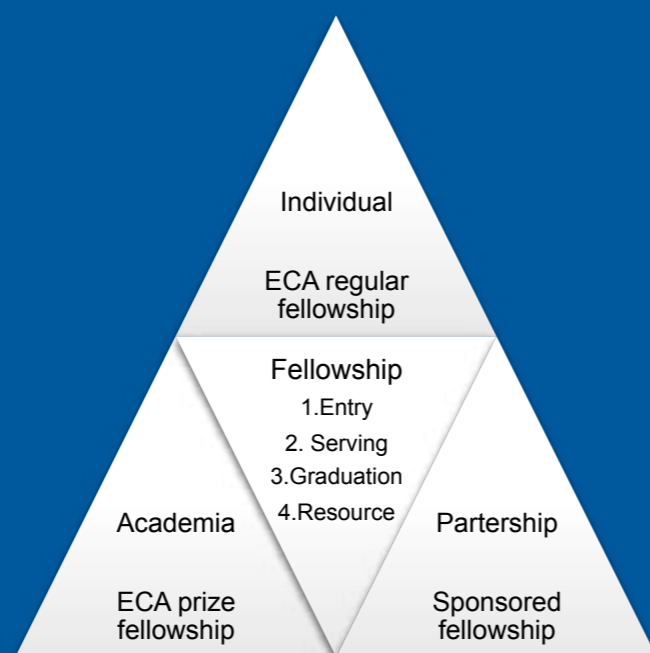
OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the ECA fellowship programme are as follows:

- i. To support young African scholars in gaining professional knowledge and operational experience and in applying this new and innovative knowledge toward the achievement of the transformative agenda of Africa;
- ii. To provide opportunities for young African scholars to work in an international environment;
- iii. To build a community of experts in Africa that can serve as a resource for formulating, implementing and monitoring development activities at the national, subregional, regional and international levels.

FELLOWSHIP FRAMEWORK

The fellowship programme offers three entry categories



FELLOWSHIP CATEGORIES

In line with the above-mentioned objectives, ECA has identified three fellowship categories, as describe below:

CATEGORY DETAILS	ECA PRIZE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	ECA REGULAR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME	PARTNER-SPONSORED FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME
NUMBER OF FELLOWS	Maximum of six (6) ECA prize fellows	Minimum of thirty (30) ECA regular fellows	Depends on the number and conditions specified in the agreement with the partners.
DESCRIPTION	This fellowship programme involves a three-way partnership including ECA, the fellow and the university or institution of higher learning from which the fellow has recently graduated. ECA plans to build relationships with identified African universities based on an agreed set of criteria. On a regular basis, these universities will select the best students in areas of study relevant to ECA.	There will be two calls for fellows under this programme annually, in April and in October. Based on the needs of and requests from the divisions and the subregional offices, a minimum of fellows per call shall be twenty (20), with maximum total of sixty (60) fellows engaged each year.	ECA works in partnership with other organizations that are also interested in supporting capacity development processes dedicated to youth. One example, is the Mo Ibrahim African Leadership Fellowship, which supports mid-career professionals in enhancing their skills. ECA plans to continue to provide a window of opportunity for its partners to support fellowships within ECA based on the arrangement negotiated with the partner.
DURATION	Two (2) calls for three (3) fellows are issued annually. Each fellowship is for a six-month duration synchronized with the ECA regular fellowship programme.	Six months, from either April to September or October to March. This is based on the response to the two calls for applicants	Depends on the agreements negotiated with the partners.
ELIGIBILITY	Each partner university is to select one exceptional African student from a graduating class at the master's or PhD level who has exhibited high academic standards, excellence in research or policy analysis and shows a strong interest in working on high-level policy research in Africa.	This fellowship is open to all newly graduated African scholars through an online application process. African students from a graduating class at the masters or PhD level who have a strong interest to work on high-level policy research in Africa are eligible to apply.	Students who are members of the African diaspora or are from a member State of ECA, have graduated from a master's or PhD programme in the past two to five years and are mid-career professionals in a relevant field of study can apply. On an exceptional basis, fellows may come from non ECA member States subject to the approval of the parties of the agreement.
SELECTION CRITERIA	A maximum of six (6) prize fellows will be chosen annually to serve within the Commission. Three prize fellows will serve in each fellowship cycle.	The Fellowship Committee will select a short list of applicants for face-to-face interviews. The final selection process includes panel interviews, submission of a statement of purpose and developing an area of research. ECA will ensure that gender, geographic distribution, skill set and language are taken into consideration during the selection process.	The Fellowship Committee will select a short list of applicants for face-to-face interviews, which will include participation from the partners.
CONDITIONS AND OTHER MATTERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lump sum monthly stipend of US\$6,000 • Round-trip economy air ticket • Fellow required to participate in key annual meetings • Fellow required to contribute to key publications or meetings • Certificate of completion of fellowship to be given following the presentation of a peer review paper or a similar output • Certificates to be presented during the fellow's graduation day, to be organized by ECA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lump sum monthly stipend of US\$3,000 • Round-trip economy air ticket • Fellow to participate in key annual meetings • Fellow to contribute to key publications or meetings • Certificate of completion of fellowship to be given following the presentation of a peer review paper or a similar output • Certificates to be presented during the fellow's graduation day, to be organized by ECA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly stipend jointly agreed between partner and sponsoring organization (TBA) • Monthly/quarterly/periodic reporting to donor partner based on agreed timeline reporting requirements. • Certificate of completion of fellowship to be given following presentation of a peer reviewed research paper or a similar output. • Certificates to be presented during the fellow's graduation day, to be organized by ECA.