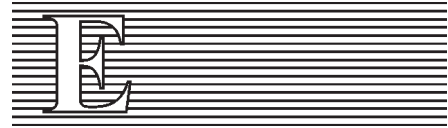




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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-fifth meeting of the Committee of Experts
of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance,
Planning and Economic Development

Ouagadougou
10 - 13 May 2006

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Thirty-ninth session of the Commission/Conference
of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and
Economic Development

Ouagadougou
14 - 15 May 2006

Annual Report 2006

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ACRONYMS

AAU	Association of African Universities
ABSA	Advisory Board on Statistics in Africa
ACGD	African Centre for Gender and Development
ACP	African Caribbean and Pacific Countries
ADF	African Development Forum
AEC	African Economic Community
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFREF	African Reference Framework
AGDI	African Gender and Development Index
AGF	African Governance Forum
AGR	African Governance Report
AISI	African Information Society Initiative
ALG	Autorité du Liptako Gourma
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ARAPKE	African Regional Plan of Action on the Knowledge Economy
ARIA	Assessing Regional Integration in Africa
ARN	Academia Research Network
ARCT	Ageing Research Computational Tools
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
ATCP	African Trade Policy Centre
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AVLAC	African Virtual Learning Academy
AVLIN	African Virtual Library Information
AWDR	African Water Development Report
AWICH	African Water Information Clearing House
AWR	African Women's Report
BADEA	Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
BDEAC	Banque de Développement des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CD-ROM	Compact Disk Read only Memory
CEEAC	Communauté Economique des Etats d'Afrique Centrale
CEMAC	Central African Monetary and Economic Community
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahel and Sahara States
CHDCS	Committee on Human Development and Civil Society
CIPS	Committee on Industry and Private Sector
CODI	Committee on Development Information
CPC	Committee for Programme and Coordination
CRCI	Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration
CSD	Committee on Sustainable Development
CWGD	Committee on Women, Gender and Development
CILSS	Comite Inter-Etats de lutte contre la Sécheresse au Sahel

CLEAR	Centre for Land, Economy and Rights
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CRNEPADAC	The Sub-regional Committee for Central Africa on the NEPAD
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CWD	Committee on Women in Development
DA	Development Account
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean countries
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean countries
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMA	Ethiopian Mapping Authority
ENEA-DSD	École nationale d'économie appliquée Département de la statistique et de la démographie
EPAs	Economic Partnership Agreements
ePol-Net	Global Electronic Policy Resource Network
ERA	Economic Report on Africa
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESPD	Economic and Social Policy Division
EU	European Union
FASDEV	Forum on African Statistical Development
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
G-8	Group of Eight
GA	General Assembly
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit (German Agency for Technical Cooperation Ltd.)
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ICE	Intergovernmental Committee of Experts
ICP	International Comparison Programme
ICRAF	International Centre for Research in Agroforestry
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IDEP	Institute for Economic Development and Planning
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IGOs	Intergovernmental Organizations
IHSN	International Household Survey Network
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IS	Information Society
ITCA	Information Technology Centre for Africa
ITES	International Trade Education System
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
KSIM	Knowledge Sharing and Information Management

LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LCBC	Lake Chad Basin Commission
LDC	Least Developed Country
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDRI	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRU	Mano River Union
MP	Member of Parliament
NBA	Niger Basin Authority
NCEMA	National Centre for Economic Management and Administration
NEPAD	New partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NICI	National Information and Communications Infrastructure
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure
NSOs	National Statistical Offices
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
OPC	Office of Policy and Programme Coordination
OSISA	Open Society Institute for Southern Africa
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21 st Century
PDCT-AC	Plan Directeur Consensuel des Transports en Afrique centrale
PICTA	Partnership of ICTs in Africa
PPR	Programme Performance Review
PRs	Poverty Reduction Strategies
PRSP-LG	African Learning Group on the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
RBO	River Basin Organization
RCMRD	Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development
REC	Regional Economic Community
RIM	Regional Implementation Meeting
RPTC	Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation
RRSF	Regional Reference Strategic Framework
RBM	Results-Based Management
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAIIA	South African Institute for International Affairs
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SDI	Sustainable Development Index
SMART	Sustainable Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Transformation
SROs	Subregional Offices
SSATP	Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Programme
STCs	Statistical Training Centres
TIIP	Technology, Infrastructure, Institutions and Policies
UEMOA	Union Economique et monétaire ouest africaine
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UN-DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNEG	United Nations Evaluation Group
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNGIWG	United Nations Geographic Information Working Group
UN-OHRLLS	United Nations of the High Representative for the Least Developed
UNSD	United Nations Statistical Division
WAMU	West Africa Monetary Union
WSIS	World Summit on the Information Society
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization

FOREWORD

The present report reviews the progress made since May 2005 in the implementation of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) programme of work. The report focuses on results that have been achieved and is in response to the reform measures of the Secretary-General, which stressed the importance of reporting on the results and impact of activities that have been undertaken to enable member countries to assess the work of the Organization and facilitate decision-making.

The shift to a results-based budgeting and results-based management approach, with the ultimate aim of enabling the Organization to determine more clearly and systematically, the usefulness, relevance, effectiveness and impact of its work, has necessitated a revision of the format of the annual report.

The present report provides an account of the achievements in each of the eight subprogrammes of ECA in terms of the programme of work as detailed below:

Subprogramme 1. *Facilitating economic and social policy analysis;*

Subprogramme 2. *Fostering sustainable development;*

Subprogramme 3. *Strengthening development management;*

Subprogramme 4. *Harnessing information for development;*

Subprogramme 5. *Promoting trade and regional integration;*

Subprogramme 6. *Promoting the advancement of women;*

Subprogramme 7. *Supporting subregional activities for development; and*

Subprogramme 8. *Development planning and administration.*

The report describes the major activities undertaken, the progress made towards attaining the objectives, the results achieved and lessons learned. It reviews the principal activities of the secretariat in two parts, of which the first covers the regular work programme, while the second reviews technical cooperation activities.

It is hoped that this approach will help the reader to determine the relevance, effectiveness and usefulness of the activities of the Commission.

CHAPTER I

Recent Economic and Social Developments in Africa: An Overview

Introduction

1. The year 2005 was seen by many as a critical one for Africa. It was an excellent opportunity, given the emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that year, to take stock of the progress achieved and design a way forward to accelerate development in the region. Many African countries have undertaken, over the past few years, very ambitious agenda of reforms. In addition to the national and regional initiatives, the international community has reaffirmed, in the context of several major conferences and summits, its determination to support these efforts. As a result, there is now consensus on key issues such as the need to enhance aid effectiveness, both in terms of quality and quantity, and to address the marginalization of African countries in the multilateral trade system.

2. So far, these initiatives have led to some improvement. African countries have recorded higher growth rates since the late 1990s, they have held many democratic elections and overall improved their governance structures. However, for a majority of countries, and more specifically sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the progress achieved remains insufficient to reach the development goals of the region, including the MDGs. Therefore, it is imperative to strengthen these efforts and strive for better outcomes. In particular, there is need to achieve faster and sustained economic growth and implement comprehensive employment creation policies and programmes.

Strong growth performance continues in Africa in 2005

3. According to the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa, the growth of real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Africa and sub-Saharan Africa is estimated at 5.3 per cent in 2005, marginally up from 5.2 per cent in 2004. A key driver of this outcome is the effect of improved macroeconomic management, resulting in controlled inflation rates and consolidation of fiscal imbalances in several African countries. Another favourable factor is the increase in oil revenues due to high production coupled with record-high prices commanded by worldwide rising energy demand.

4. Despite these improvements, concerns remain with regard to the very limited social gains achieved so far and the sustainability of growth in the medium-term. Furthermore, these growth rates remain much below the level required to significantly accelerate poverty reduction and achieve the MDGs. The Survey reports that over the period 1998-2005, only four countries recorded average growth rates of more than 7 per cent. These are: Equatorial Guinea (22.3 per cent), Chad (9.7 per cent), Mozambique (8.9 per cent) and Angola (8.2 per cent).

The subregional outlook

5. By subregion, East Africa registered the best performance for the second consecutive year

with real GDP growth rate at 6.1 per cent. This outcome was mainly driven by better agriculture production while higher public and private investments boosted growth in Djibouti. Low economic growth in Eritrea is attributable to droughts. Southern Africa was the second fastest growing subregion in 2005 with real GDP increase of 5.8 per cent, up from 5.1 per cent in 2004. Overall, the subregion benefited from higher metal and oil prices. The solid performance in Angola is explained in part by a pick up in activity in the oil sector. In Mozambique, the economic growth increased due to higher exports of aluminium and electricity, and continued to benefit from past reforms and support from development partners. In South Africa, the acceleration of GDP growth is explained by good performance in the tourism sector, and higher domestic demand and exports. Growth in North Africa remained solid in 2005 at 5.3 per cent compared to 5.2 per cent in 2004. This result is due to the strong performance of the oil sector and also the impact of the economic reforms as they have strengthened the capacity to resist external shocks. In Morocco and Tunisia, the textile industry suffered from the phase out of the Multifibre Agreement on Textile and Clothing in January 2005. In Morocco, the growth was further affected by a sharp contraction in agriculture output due to poor weather conditions.

6. In Central Africa, economic activity slowed down from a high 6.3 per cent in 2004 to 3.7 per cent in 2005. Activity in the oil sector remained solid in Chad and Equatorial Guinea, though at a much lesser rate than in 2004. The

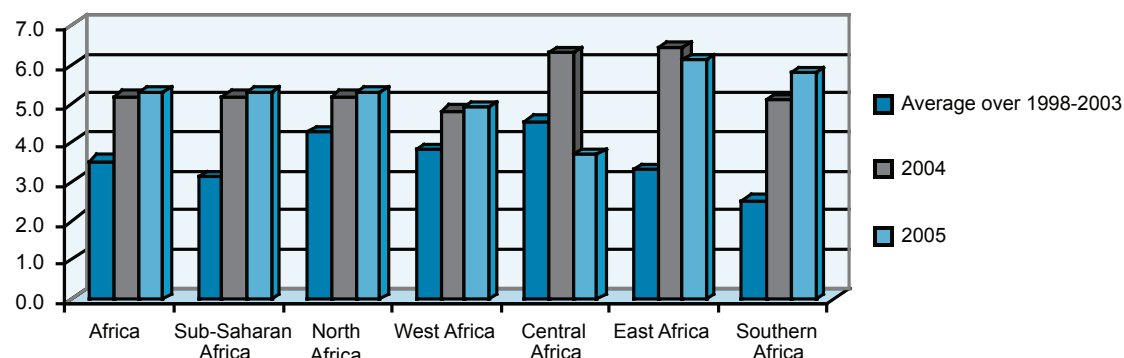
completion of major oil investment projects partly explains the slowdown. The improved political conditions in Central African Republic and in the Democratic Republic of Congo have contributed positively to the growth outcome observed in 2005. In West Africa, the economic activity marginally increased from 4.8 per cent in 2004 to 4.9 per cent in 2005. Poor weather conditions affected agriculture production negatively in Ghana while in Cote d'Ivoire the political uncertainty continued to impact GDP growth negatively. The restoration of peace and the reconstruction efforts, supported by increased aid flows, stimulated growth in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Improvement of macroeconomic fundamentals

7. Africa has made significant progress in terms of macroeconomic management, adopting prudent fiscal and monetary policies. As a result, countries in the region have generally improved their fiscal balance, reduced inflation rates, stabilized exchange rate movements and addressed current account imbalances.

8. The average fiscal position in the region moved from a deficit of 0.7 per cent of GDP in 2004 to a surplus of 0.7 per cent in 2005. These figures, however, mask very different country experiences. The shift to a surplus on average in Africa was mainly driven by sizeable fiscal surpluses recorded by oil-producing countries. Nonetheless, some non-oil economies such as Kenya, Lesotho, Sao Tome and Principe, and

Figure 1: Real GDP growth in Africa from 1998 to 2005



Seychelles also recorded fiscal surpluses. Notwithstanding these positive results, fiscal imbalances remain a critical issue for several countries with deficits reaching unsustainable levels. Fiscal consolidation therefore remains high on the agenda for economic reform in Africa.

9. Monetary authorities in the region have continued to implement prudent policies. As a result, inflation remained relatively low in Africa moving from 7.8 per cent in 2004 to 8.2 per cent in 2005. Several countries recorded single-digit inflation rates in 2005 while 14 countries posted rates above 10 per cent.

10. The continent continues to improve its external position in terms of current account balance, exchange rate movements, and financial flows. In that regard, total official development assistance to Africa continues its recovery from the long decline experienced between 1990 and 2001. Aid from all donors stood at US\$ 26.5 billion in 2004 compared to US\$ 16.2 billion in 2001.

The debt problem remains of concern

11. Despite the implementation of the HIPC initiative, Africa's total external debt stock stood at US\$ 285.5 billion in 2005, the same level as in 1997. The work done by ECA highlights several key issues to be addressed to solve Africa's debt problem. Among the proposed solutions are: (i) the need to use multiple indicators in the analysis of debt sustainability to enrich and deepen the insight into country-specific circumstances of the debt crisis; (ii) to clarify legal aspects of external debt management; to minimize the impact of exogenous shocks on Africa's debt sustainability; and (iii) to assess financing needs for debt relief and development. In this context, the recent Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) proposed by the Group of Eight (G-8) at its 2005 Summit in Gleneagles is most welcome. It will however not be sufficient to adequately meet the financing needs for development in Africa. To ensure

debt sustainability, the MDRI will have to be accompanied by concrete measures to deal with commodity price shocks and initiatives to diversify African economies.

African countries need to create more jobs to reduce poverty

12. While economic growth has improved significantly, the impact on employment creation in the region remains insufficient. This result is notably caused by a high concentration of economic activity in capital-intensive sectors such as oil and mining. The poor performance in this area is a serious source of concern, given that the ability to accelerate poverty reduction depends on the capacity of African countries to create enough jobs to provide people with more secure sources of income.

13. So far, the region has registered slow progress in the fight against poverty, illiteracy, endemic diseases, gender inequality and other social problems. While the developing world in general has made significant progress towards achieving the MDGs over the past decade, many African countries are still lagging behind for several of the goals. Indeed, sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the developing world where poverty headcount has increased since 1980. In the 2005 *Human Development Report*, 30 of the 32 countries classified in the "low human development" category are from sub-Saharan Africa. An important cause of the slow progress in human development is the fact that growth has not been accompanied by sufficient job creation.

14. In addition to the other development challenges discussed above, African countries face the critical issue of pervasive gender inequality in basic rights, access to productive resources and economic opportunities, and lack of political voice. The international development community has realized that gender inequality is a critical issue and must therefore occupy a centre role in designing economic policies. The focus on gender inequality is reflected in the large and growing number of national and international

declarations and conventions on the advancement of gender equity. However, actual implementation of these declarations remains weak, mainly because of the lack of effective institutional backing, thus the persistence of pervasive gender inequality across the continent.

Medium-term economic outlook

15. Overall, the economic outlook for Africa in the coming years remains promising given the improved macroeconomic fundamentals, a continued recovery in the global economy and the commitments of development partners to substantially increase aid flows to Africa. As a result, real GDP growth in Africa is expected to increase to 5.8 per cent in 2006. However, many countries are likely to continue to face important challenges that may undermine the overall economic performance and progress towards poverty eradication. The main factors to positively impact growth include the expected high oil prices, delivery of promised debt relief, and dividends from continued improvements in

macroeconomic management. However, other factors are likely to dampen growth, including poor infrastructure, climatic vagaries such as droughts, higher world interest rates and the implied costs of debt servicing, and the adverse effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Policy makers must therefore focus on strategies to alleviate the impact of these risks in the short run. In the long run, the best strategy consists in mainstreaming risk prevention and risk management into national economic development planning.

16. In that regard, the 2005 Survey concludes with a set of policy recommendations aimed at increasing economic growth and accelerating poverty reduction in Africa. It notably proposes policy measures intended to consolidate macroeconomic management, promote economic diversification, improve public infrastructure and provide reliable sources of energy. As a result of the implementation of such measures, it is expected that African countries would be in a better position to generate employment opportunities to reduce poverty.

CHAPTER II

Major Achievements in 2006

Regular Programme of Work

Facilitating economic and social policy analysis

17. The objective of ECA's work under this subprogramme is to strengthen the capacity of member States to design and implement appropriate economic and social policies and strategies to achieve sustained economic growth for poverty reduction. To this end, particular emphasis was placed on monitoring and tracking Africa's economic performance; conducting research and policy analysis on macroeconomic, financial and social issues; and strengthening the statistical capacities of African countries for monitoring progress towards the MDGs.

18. ECA engages in tracking regional and country economic performance in order to provide timely and accurate information, analysis and options for short-term policy design in the context of implementation of the objectives of poverty reduction strategies and other nationally-owned development programmes. Activities in this area include the provision of in-depth analyses showing macroeconomic trends and variables to serve policy makers and other end-users in the region; workshops; studies; and dialogue with regional stakeholders.

19. *The Economic Report on Africa*, which is the annual flagship publication of the Commission, offers a comprehensive review of economic and social developments in Africa, promotes understanding of key development issues and facilitates policy-making. Preparation of

the 2006 edition of the report was a key activity under this subprogramme during the period under review. In view of Africa's low savings and investment rates, and the need to mobilize additional resources for meeting the MDGs, *ERA 2006* focused on the theme, *Capital Flows and Development Financing in Africa*. The report brings the issue of capital flows to the centre of the debate on development financing and examines how increased capital flows can help African countries to accelerate growth and achieve the MDGs. The report also examines the impact of capital flows on economic transformation, the role of macroeconomic policy and the institutional environment in attracting capital flows, constraints to capital inflows including absorptive capacity, and strategies for better management of capital flows to maximize their positive effects on growth and minimize their potential destabilizing effects.

20. The aim of the report is to contribute to the adoption by member States of policy measures for attracting capital flows as an integral part of their development and structural transformation strategies. The analysis in the report also draws on lessons from other developing countries in the area of management of capital flows, thus providing a valuable input to national policies for managing the process of integration into the global economy. Other activities undertaken by the secretariat aimed at strengthening capacity for attracting capital flows for development included an ad hoc experts group meeting on capital flows and current account sustainability (Accra, Ghana, September 2005), which identified policies with respect to trade, capital flows and debt that could increase current account sustainability in African countries.

21. The year under review also saw the publication of a major research report entitled, *Unleashing the Private Sector in Africa*. The report covered a wide range of issues ranging from conditions for firm entry and growth, encouraging innovations, the use of ICT and the role of FDI and the African Diaspora in private sector development. In particular, the report underlined the role of African governments in promoting the development of the private sector by addressing the constraints to private sector growth and development, including strategies for increasing FDI flows to the region and maximizing the contributions of the African Diaspora to the continent's development.

22. With 34 out of the world's 50 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Africa, addressing the special needs of this group of countries remains a priority area for ECA's work. In preparation for the global mid-term review of the Brussels Programme of Action to be held in September 2006, the ECA secretariat, together with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Developing Island States (UN-OHRLS) and UNDP Africa Bureau, jointly organized the African Regional preparatory meeting in February 2006. The meeting agreed on a set of actions to accelerate progress towards attaining the targets and commitments of the BPoA. The African outcome document also informed discussions at the Asia and Pacific Regional review meeting.

23. The work of the secretariat in the area of social policy and poverty analysis during the year focused on activities in support of the efforts of member States in achieving the goals of NEPAD and the Millennium Declaration. For instance, the secretariat submitted to the Commission's session in 2005, an issues paper which identified the main challenges in meeting the MDGs in Africa and provided policy recommendations on how these can be addressed. In preparation for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission in May 2006, where issues of employment and poverty reduction strategies are on the agenda, an issues paper has also been

prepared highlighting the centrality of employment in achieving poverty reduction.

24. ECA's contribution to the development of comprehensive national development strategies for achieving the MDGs was also enhanced by convening the *African Plenary on Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)* in March 2006 in Cairo, Egypt. The Plenary provided a forum for sharing national experience and best practices including identifying weaknesses in the design and implementation of PRSs, and charting the course for the development of the second generation of African PRSs. The meeting also provided an opportunity for African policy makers to examine the options for achieving the MDGs and reducing poverty through structural transformation. A major outcome of the meeting was the launch of an Internet-based PRS Knowledge Network which links PRS practitioners and scholars on the national and international levels. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) and UNDP.

25. In addition, ECA provided substantive support to the *Tackling Poverty Together* project, an initiative of the United Nations Youth Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) aimed at facilitating youth participation in the implementation of poverty reduction programmes and activities in their countries at both community and national levels. In this regard, ECA participated in a meeting of youths in Lusaka, Zambia in September 2005 and helped youths from seven countries in developing action plans to ensure that their inputs are taken into account in the formulation and implementation of national poverty reduction programmes. The main premise of this project is that youths constitute a major proportion of the poor and should be an active part of the process of dealing with the problem.

26. Despite growing awareness of the crucial role of indicators and statistics in achieving development outcomes and the overall monitoring of development goals, the lack of quality

of socio-economic and environmental statistics remains a major challenge in Africa. To address it, the secretariat undertook a number of activities aimed at strengthening the statistical capacities of its member States for informed decision-making as well as for tracking progress towards the achievement of the MDGs and other development goals. A major achievement in this area was the development and implementation of a prototype model for the ECA regional statistical database, following a comprehensive data needs assessment conducted during the third quarter of 2004.

27. The second Forum on African Statistical Development (FASDEV II) was held in Addis Ababa from 9 to 10 February 2006 to review and endorse the *Regional Reference Strategic Framework (RRSF)* for African statistical development, which provides an action framework for Africa's statistical development over the next 10 years. FASDEV was launched in 2005 to (i) set up a permanent system for monitoring statistical development in Africa; (ii) strengthen collaboration and coordination in the field of statistics by leveraging on the comparative advantage of the various partners; and (iii) provide an overview of statistical activities, including technical assistance and training in Africa. The organization of FASDEV II is an excellent illustration of the cooperation between ECA, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) and the World Bank.

28. In February 2006, ECA joined forces with the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and the Statistics Office of South Africa to organize a meeting on the theme, *2006 Africa Symposium on Statistical Development: The 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses* in Cape Town. The meeting underscored the need to strengthen the linkage between the MDGs and national censuses. The symposium was particularly timely and its outcome would help expand awareness of the modern techniques used in national population censuses as many African countries prepare for their national cen-

suses in 2006 and beyond. The secretariat also organized a series of training workshops and expert group meetings aimed at enhancing the capacity of African countries in the harmonization, compilation, analysis and dissemination of reliable, timely and standardized statistical information in line with the criteria of the International Comparison Programme (ICP).

Fostering sustainable development

29. The 2005 World Summit Outcome reaffirmed the importance of environmental sustainability as the foundation on which strategies for achieving all the other MDGs must be built. Nowhere is the importance of the environment as a foundation for development more obvious than in Africa where many countries continue to face unique challenges in terms of natural resources management. In response to these challenges, the work of ECA under this subprogramme aims to promote awareness of the environmental foundations of sustainable development, with particular emphasis on integrating environmental sustainability into national development processes and poverty reduction strategies so that economic and social development is not undermined by environmental degradation.

30. In support of this broad objective, the activities undertaken focused on the following three interrelated areas: (a) **strengthening** national capacities to design institutional arrangements and implement national policies and programmes that reinforce the linkages among the nexus issues of food security, population, environment and human settlements in order to achieve sustainable development; (b) improving stewardship of the natural resource base by strengthening capacities for sustainable exploitation, management and effective utilization of mineral, energy and water resources; and (c) contribute to building capacity of African countries to utilize science and technology, including biotechnology in achieving sustainable development.

31. Through a variety of activities which built on those of previous years, ECA continued to advocate and increase awareness of policy makers of the need to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development into national development frameworks and planning processes. A number of meetings, seminars, and training workshops were organized with a view to strengthening stakeholder capacities in addressing critical sustainable challenges.

32. Promoting agriculture and food security are central to ECA's mandate. To this end, ECA prepared various reports, undertook advisory missions, organized meetings and participated in high-level meetings that were in direct support of CAADP or were carried out within the NEPAD framework. ECA participated in five Regional Implementation Meetings (RIM) and a Summit in Accra, Ghana in May 2005 which resulted in the adoption of Accra Plan of Action to advance the implementation of the CAADP agenda at regional and country levels.

33. Analytical studies and reports were conducted and disseminated on developments in the region with regard to sustainable development issues. Addressing the critical sustainable development challenges was the focus of the inaugural issue of the *Sustainable Development Report on Africa*. The important publication highlights as well as significant environmental trends in the region with a view to increasing awareness of innovative ways for mainstreaming environment and sustainable development issues into national planning instruments. It covers a wide range of issues including land-based resources; land policy and resources; management of water resources for food security; management of energy resources for harnessing land-based resources; and management of mineral resources.

34. The report shows that the journey towards sustainable development is beset with stagnant or worsening status indicators, and called for concerted efforts in all countries to aggressively adopt and implement policies, programmes and strategies that aim to achieve the international sustainable development goals and

targets in the medium and long-term. The report also emphasizes the need for a holistic and integrated treatment of the various dimensions of sustainable development given that policies tend to have a sectoral perspective without any attempt to harmonize them. The report recommends the need for harmonized development policies, programmes and strategies. National councils for sustainable development that are in place in most countries are expected to take on the role of facilitating this process.

35. Activities in the field of energy included preparation of a series of studies and reports on power sector reforms. A study, *Power Sector Reform in Africa: Making Africa's Power Sector Sustainable*, was prepared in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) within the framework of United Nations Energy/Africa. The study provides an in-depth analysis of the economic, social and environmental impacts of power sector reforms. Among its findings are that while reforms helped achieve some institutional efficiency, preliminary assessments indicate a low level of interest by the private sector in improving electricity access levels as well as an unwillingness to commit the levels of investment needed to increase generation capacity and improve transmission networks. The report concludes that overall, reforms have not been enough to ensure the sustainability of the power sector. The study underlined the need to refocus reforms to ensure increased electricity access for the majority of poor people.

36. Similarly, activities undertaken in the area of science and technology were aimed at enhancing awareness of the role and contribution of S&T in achieving sustainable development. In this context, ECA provided technical assistance to Rwanda, South Africa and Ghana in reviewing, restructuring, and updating their science, technology and information systems and policies. ECA also participated in the eighth session of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva in May 2005 where it sponsored a resolution on making science and technology work for the poor

and the African Green Revolution which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2005. In a related initiative, the ECA Executive Secretary was invited to join a Group of Eminent Persons on the African Green Revolution by President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, during his tenure as Chair of the African Union.

37. Another highlight of the year was ECA's work on trade and environment which seeks to promote sustainable development by enhancing capacity of governments, businesses and civil society to integrate environmental considerations into trade and financial policies and practices. To this end, a Regional Workshop on Capacity-Building in Trade and Environment was organized at the ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa in February 2006 to discuss the nexus between trade and sustainable development. The meeting underlined the relevance of environmental issues for trade, and noted with concern that environmental issues have not been taken as seriously as they should have been in trade negotiations within the WTO framework, due to the weak negotiating capacities of African countries. In this connection, the meeting called for awareness raising and advocacy among African leaders regarding the importance of environment issues and the need to allocate more resources to the sector.

38. ECA's work under this subprogramme has led to increased awareness of the need to integrate environmental considerations into mainstream national economic policies and plans for achieving the MDGs and poverty reduction. The impact in member States is reflected in the increase in the number of countries that are re-defining their national strategies to include an environmental component.

Strengthening development management

39. The central role of good governance in building a capable State and achieving sustainable development and poverty reduction is

now widely recognized. A system of good governance is also required for all sectors of society to participate and contribute to the development process, as well as for the implementation of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and achieving the MDGs. Addressing the challenge of establishing and sustaining good governance practices for broad stakeholder participation in the development process and strengthening the foundations for sustainable development in Africa remains the central objective of ECA's work under this subprogramme. Particular emphasis was also placed on addressing the challenges identified in the Consensus Statement adopted at the fourth African Development Forum (ADF-IV) which was held in October 2004 on the theme, *Good Governance for a Progressing Africa*.

40. Activities in support of the above objective during the year under review included meetings, seminars and workshops to facilitate the exchange of experience and improve stakeholder capacity in the area of governance (political, economic and corporate, including strengthening public financial management).

41. In the area of political governance, ECA provided support to the APRM Secretariat as one of the key strategic partner institutions. In addition, ECA also provided technical assistance to several member States in various stages of their review process and participated in several country support missions. Crucially, the African Governance Report (AGR) country case studies served as inputs into the APR country self-assessment since about 50 percent of the countries involved have also acceded to the APRM.

42. ECA published and launched the first annual *AGR* during the period under review. A major press conference was held at the ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa in March 2006 to formally launch the report. The press conference was attended by several media agencies from within and outside Africa. The report received unprecedented worldwide media coverage and has become one of ECA's best known

publications as reflected by the number of requests received so far for copies of the report from various African and non-African institutions. However, even before the report was formally launched in March 2006, it had been used by several regional and subregional institutions to support their work on governance, and was extensively quoted in several conferences, studies and websites. For example, during the *Forum on Governance in Africa* organized by the African Union in November 2005, the South African Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA) made a presentation using the results of the ECA governance study as well as the country surveys on Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe (SAIIA, 2005). The forum noted that publications such as the AGR had immense value in crucial governance areas such as linking and promoting synergies between different categories of actors, and giving priority to implementation issues, and supporting dialogue processes on governance issues. At the country level, some of the partner national research institutions have already published their own national governance reports based on the country profiles in the AGR.

43. The report is intended to promote consensus-building on key issues and to develop, sustain and internalize the norms of good governance in Africa. Indicators developed for the first report covered 27 countries and focused on issues of political representation, institutional effectiveness, and economic management and corporate governance. The report provided a significant input to the APRM process in several countries.

44. In the area of economic and corporate governance, ECA organized a series of subregional workshops on *Codes and standards for economic and corporate governance in Africa*. These workshops were organized in collaboration with the five ECA Subregional Offices (Central Africa, East Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa). The objective of the workshops is to provide a forum for experts and policy makers, including representatives of gov-

ernments, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector from the five subregions to review economic and corporate governance practices in member States; identify the main challenges, strategies and good practices and provide recommendations to enhance economic and corporate governance in the region. **Each subregional workshop ended with the adoption of a Plan of Action** aimed at initiating and reinforcing specific programmes and campaign of advocacy and sensitization for promoting better corporate governance in the public and private sectors. Five background papers were prepared and presented at the subregional workshops by the ECA secretariat. In addition, a technical publication on promoting codes and standards of good economic and corporate governance is currently being prepared.

45. A number of ad hoc experts group meetings and workshops were organized to review the results of various research, analytical studies and publications prepared by the secretariat on a wide range of governance issues. These included an ad hoc experts group meeting on best practices in participatory development; ad hoc experts group meeting on public financial management and accountability in the context of budget transparency in Africa; and a workshop on the role of Africa's civil society in the implementation of the APRM. In 2005, two publications were also produced on partnership modalities for enhancing good governance and regulatory governance and infrastructure development. One issues paper, prepared for the joint ECA-ADB annual symposium in May 2005 explored the issue of capacity-building for achieving the MDGs in Africa. In addition, ECA is planning to organize the sixth African Governance Forum (AGF) in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and ADB under the theme, *Implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism-challenges and opportunities* in May 2006.

46. As part of its ongoing reforms, ECA plans to establish strategic partnership initiatives with various institutions in the member States in order to promote cooperation in the

area of governance and provide its work with a strong country-level dimension.

Harnessing information for development

47. The overall objective of the subprogramme is to further strengthen the growth of a sustainable information society (IS) in Africa that better addresses the continent's development challenges. To that end, ECA's work under this subprogramme focused on three broad interrelated areas as follows: *Harnessing Information Technology for Development – implementing the African Information Society Initiative (AISI)*; *Strengthening Geo-information systems for sustainable development*; and *Improving access to information and knowledge through enhanced library services*.

48. Activities undertaken in the area of harnessing information for development were aimed at strengthening the capacity of member States to create an enabling environment for harnessing ICTs to achieve accelerated growth and development. Key to the attainment of this objective is the promotion of National Information and Communications Infrastructure (NICI) policies and plans which articulate long-term policy, infrastructure, regulatory, content and application strategies as an integral part of overall national development programmes.

49. A major accomplishment in this area is the increase in the number of countries that have either developed or implemented NICI policies and plans with ECA's assistance during the year. As a result of ECA's assistance, NICI's plans were initiated, formulated or implemented in 13 additional countries during the period under review - Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, the Gambia, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Swaziland, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Togo (which received assistance in finalizing its second NICI). ECA also assisted Ethiopia and Uganda in launching their sectoral plans in the area of health.

50. In order to bridge the digital divide and strengthen the application ICTs in the economic sectors, ECA launched an ICT, Trade and Economic Growth initiative in March 2006 in partnership with the Government of Canada to support the use of ICTs in economic performance and growth, build competitiveness as well as increase growth in traditional and emerging sectors of African economies and increase Africa's export base in IT-enabled Services (ITES).

51. During the period under review, ECA also continued to actively support the objectives of NEPAD through assistance to the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the development and implementation of subregional policies and plans in order to ensure improved connectivity and unification of standards between member States. In December 2005, an e-government strategy was completed for the East African Community (EAC). Since September 2005, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and ECA have been working together to create an ICT policy framework for the subregion which would address the challenges of building the information society including harmonizing national ICT policies and plans. In North Africa, a study is being undertaken in collaboration with the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) on the status of e-commerce development in the subregion to examine the feasibility of launching a subregional e-commerce platform, which will facilitate business activities among member States. The draft ICT strategy for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) was presented and discussed in February 2006 at an experts group meeting. Also in 2006, ECA will be supporting the Communauté Economique des Etats d'Afrique Centrale (CEEAC) and Central African Monetary and Economic Community (CEMAC) to implement the e-CEMAC 2010 initiative.

52. In response to the need for measuring the impact of ICTs in various sectors, ECA continued to implement its initiative, SCAN-ICT, which is aimed at building and strengthening the capacity of member States in the develop-

ment of indicators and benchmarks for monitoring and assessing information society trends. The SCAN-ICT initiative entered its second phase in June 2005 with the launch of activities for collecting core ICT for development indicators in five countries (Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana, Mauritius, and Rwanda). The countries will begin developing web-based resources and databases as a result of the indicators in late 2006. The regional IS indicators database for Africa will eventually be integrated into a global database to allow for comparison. The development efforts for the two systems are being carried out concurrently. This has necessitated extensive collaboration between ECA and other UN regional commissions, international agencies and national statistical offices in developing harmonized and standardized information society indicators at the global, regional and national levels.

53. An important aspect of ECA's national policy formulation is the development of national geoinformation policies, as well as their integration into national e-strategies. During the period under review, ECA assisted Burkina Faso, Liberia and Rwanda in integrating National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI) into their NICI process, and is currently undertaking a review of SDI activities in Senegal. With assistance from ECA, six countries (Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria and South Africa) formally established a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) or framework. Efforts are also currently underway to support the African Union Commission in developing a multi-modal transportation master plan for Africa; and to Ethiopia, in building the capacity of the Ethiopian Mapping Authority (EMA) to develop a web-based digital gazetteer that better utilizes spatial database and digital technology.

54. The ECA secretariat also continued to play its role as a major geoinformation knowledge hub, by maintaining a clearing house system for researchers and decision makers, providing the space for member States to publicize their metadata holdings. Data sets for six countries were completed, and five more updated,

bringing the number of African countries with complete data sets to 19. In collaboration with the International Cartographic Association, ECA prepared and disseminated a draft report on fundamental data sets to relevant stakeholders to facilitate agreement by member States on a common terminology and consistent fundamental spatial data sets for Africa. Efforts to increase the awareness of policy and decision makers of the importance of geoinformation for economic development was also delivered through a workshop in March 2006 for West African countries on the African Reference Framework (AFREF). In addition, the ECA secretariat is currently compiling, editing, and verifying the second level administrative boundaries of African countries as part of a worldwide initiative.

55. In the area of information and knowledge development, the ECA Library is currently undertaking a baseline survey to measure the level of readiness among regional, national and special libraries to participate in a regional network aimed at facilitating the sharing of development knowledge resources. The survey was developed on the basis of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee of the African Virtual Library Information Network (AVLIN) from the AVLIN which is hosted by the ECA Library. The ECA Library also continued to serve and provide technical inputs to the work of the Steering Committee on the Modernization and Harmonization of United Nations System Libraries and Inter-Agency Group on Knowledge Sharing and Information Management (KSIM). Other outreach materials and services produced by ECA to help promote public awareness on ICTs for development issues included a series of policy briefs and publications, which were launched during the WSIS in Tunis in November 2005. In addition, two video programmes were produced to highlight the challenges and opportunities ICT present to Africa. Various initiatives in enhancing the availability and utilization of content have been undertaken such as Varsity Net and Academia Research Network (ARN) projects, and AISI Media Awards.

56. During the period under review, ECA member States were engaged in the preparation for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS-2) which was held in Tunis in November 2005. Through a series of ECA activities, African countries were able to actively participate in the global decision-making processes and reflect Africa's common concerns and perspectives in their outcomes based on the African Regional Plan of Action on the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE), adopted by African ICT Ministers in September 2005. ECA also organized or participated in a number of side events during the Summit. These included a symposium, *Building Regional Partnerships for the Information Society*, which was jointly organized with other Regional Commissions, and chaired by President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda; a special panel event on *Financing Knowledge in Africa* which had the President of the African Development Bank (ADB), and the ECA Executive Secretary, as well as several African Ministers as panelists; and a parallel event on measuring the information society, organized by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development.

57. During the Summit, ECA worked with a group of African journalists to produce a newspaper entitled, *WSIS Tunis Agenda*, as well as radio coverage of the Summit events. In addition, as a follow-up to WSIS-2, ECA organized a conference, *WSIS Follow-up Conference on Access to Information and Knowledge for Development*, which brought together librarians from African countries and other information professionals to develop and agree on an action framework, which will serve as a blueprint for the implementation of the WSIS recommendations in Africa.

58. Capacity-building activities remain central to ECA's mission of promoting awareness of the importance of harnessing and exploiting ICTs for socio-economic development. Through the activities of the Information Technology Center for Africa (ITCA), an ICT-focused exhibition and learning center at ECA, a significant number of government agencies, national par-

liaments, academic and research institutions and NGOs in the region have benefited from training in the use and application of ICTs. Since August 2005, ECA has been providing training support to 100 Ethiopian Customs officers on application development and network management. The African Virtual Learning Academy (AVLAC) provides ITCA with additional means to address training needs and provide online capacity-building training to policy and decision makers, while the ECA-IDEP initiative which started in September 2005 is developing online training for policy makers on economic development and planning. Other online courses are available on internet governance (<http://www.uneca.org/itca/vlac>). Capacity-building workshops have been organized for Members of Parliament in the Gambia and Niger (June 2005) leading to the creation of Members of Parliament ICTs for development networks as well as an ICT Parliamentary Standing Committee in Niger. Similar workshops were held in March 2006 in Swaziland and similar requests have been received from the Parliaments of Kenya, Uganda and the SADC Parliamentary Forum to assist in building the capacities of parliamentary staff as well as Members of Parliament in the use of ICTs. These requests will be addressed in the course of 2006.

59. In the course of the year, ECA continues to leverage on a number of bilateral and multi-lateral partnership mechanisms to carry out its activities. It continues to provide the secretariat for the *Partnership for ICTs in Africa (PICTA)*, an informal group of partners working to leverage resources and expertise to build Africa's Information Society. ECA also serves as the Africa Regional Focal Point for the *Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP)*, and plays an important role in ensuring African stakeholders' participation in GKP activities on resource mobilization, poverty reduction, access to knowledge and education. ECA is also active in the work of the *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development*, a global partnership initiative comprised of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United Nations Con-

ference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Institute for Statistics, ECA, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UN ICT Task Force and the World Bank, aimed at defining and collecting a set of common ICT indicators for countries to produce information society statistics.

60. Bilateral partnerships continued to be strengthened during the year. For example, cooperation between ECA and Finland was strengthened focusing on policy formulation and implementation, telecommunication regulatory issues and research and innovation; with the Government of Canada on the *Global Electronic Policy Resource Network (ePol-Net) project*, of which ECA acts as the African regional node to support e-policy formulation and implementation. Other bilateral support has been for outreach and building stakeholderhood for the Information Society from the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ); and on land information policies and other geoinformation initiatives from the Governments of Korea and Canada. In addition, as part of the Interoperability Task Group of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG), ECA is collaborating with UNEP to pilot an innovative spatial data interoperability platform.

Promoting trade and regional integration

61. The overall objective of this subprogramme is to accelerate the effective integration of Africa into the global economy and strengthen the process of regional integration on the continent through promoting intraregional and international trade as well as physical integration, with particular emphasis on the transport sector.

62. The activities undertaken towards realizing the above objective can be grouped into three broad areas, namely, trade promotion and multilateral trade negotiations; facilitating and enhancing the process of regional economic integration; and transportation infrastructure development. The efforts under each of the three areas were underpinned by enhanced support to the regional economic communities (RECs), the building blocks for achieving the African Economic Community.

63. In the area of trade promotion and multilateral trade negotiations, the two key processes currently taking place are the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations and economic partnership agreement (EPA) negotiations between the European Union and African countries. During the period under review, African countries were engaged in preparations for the sixth WTO Ministerial meeting which was held in Hong Kong in December. ECA worked closely with other partners in supporting the member States in their preparation. In this regard, ECA, in collaboration with the African Union (AU) organized a meeting of African Ministers of Trade in Arusha, Tanzania to enable them define and synchronize their negotiating positions. ECA made technical presentations at the meeting, using detailed research and policy analyses that it undertook. ECA was also represented at the Hong Kong Ministerial and met daily with the Africa Group of negotiators to analyze developments and propose negotiation strategies.

64. Despite the failure of the Hong Kong Ministerial to reach agreement on key issues, Africa was able to successfully defend its position, particularly on the key issues of agriculture, where there was agreement to eliminate various farm support measures by 2013. As many of the key decisions have been deferred to the negotiators at Geneva, ECA is supporting the Africa Group in Geneva on a continuous basis. In another collaboration with the AU, ECA organized a post-Hong Kong brainstorming meeting for African negotiators in Geneva to analyse the Hong Kong Ministerial text and

develop strategies for future negotiations. ECA continues to monitor the negotiations and supports African countries on a daily basis with technical advice and assistance in making proposals at the negotiations.

65. As the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) negotiations between the EU and ACP countries entered a crucial new phase in 2005, ECA increased its support to member States in building a coherent strategy for the negotiations. Although, the EPAs are expected to generate enormous benefits to ACP countries, their implementation will pose enormous challenges such as: managing the expected loss of fiscal revenue; coping with more competition expected as a result of the reciprocity entailed; ascertaining net benefits from the EPAs, especially for LDCs; and enhancing the limited capacity for negotiations in most African countries.

66. In response to these challenges, ECA undertook a comprehensive impact assessment of EPAs, on which Africa can build an effective strategy for negotiations with the EU. ECA organized three subregional Expert Group Meetings during the period under review (in West Africa, East Africa and Southern Africa) to examine the main challenges of the ongoing negotiations and the potential implications of the EPAs on the respective subregional economies. ECA presented the results of its technical studies, which highlight the potential impact of concluding an EPA as proposed by the EU, and made recommendations on how Africa should respond.

67. The subregional meetings were followed by a regional meeting where lessons and experiences from the various regions were shared and the way forward on EPAs agreed. One important outcome of the meeting was a request for ECA to examine how African countries can mitigate against some of the possible impacts of an EPA with the EU. In response to the request, ECA conducted studies on African countries that have concluded free trade agreements with the EU (Egypt, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia) and distilled lessons for other African coun-

tries. In addition, ECA is currently undertaking country specific studies on the likely impact of EPAs. So far, studies have been completed for Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal and Seychelles. For all the country studies, ECA cooperates with national governments and research institutions in order to ensure that national institutions gain the experience and skills necessary to conduct future studies.

68. ECA's work of building sustainable trade capacities of African countries was further enhanced through the capacity-building activities of the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) which was established in 2004 with support from the Government of Canada to strengthen ECA capacity on trade-related issues. During the period under review, the Centre continued to deliver on its mandate of providing advisory services and training to African countries on trade-related issues and regularly publishes analytical and policy-relevant research to assist member States in developing their negotiating positions. In February 2006, the Centre conducted a training session for African embassies based in Addis Ababa on international trade negotiations. The workshop served to inform the embassies, and through them the member States, on the details of the ongoing trade negotiations in Geneva, and the role ECA continues to play. This information seminar is an important objective of ECA as trade is not the preserve of the trade ministry alone, but part of a broader objective to mainstream trade in national development plans of our member States. The Centre is also conducting a far-reaching study on mainstreaming trade and its results will be published in June this year.

69. ECA, in collaboration with the African Union completed the second edition of its flagship report, *Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA II)* during the period under review. One of the key recommendations of ARIA I, which was published in 2004 was that Africa needed to rationalize the institutional setting for the pursuit of the African Economic Community. The issue of rationalization of RECs was thus the theme of ARIA II. Since the AU

has designated the RECs as building blocks for the AEC, ARIA II is a study on how these institutions can be rationalized and made more effective. ECA visited all African RECs and several member States in conducting the study. The report will be launched at the next AU Heads of State and Government Summit scheduled to be held Banjul, the Gambia in July 2006. The Summit will be dedicated to rationalization issues. The report examined the long-standing issue of proliferation of RECs and their overlapping mandates and memberships and the challenge that this poses for Africa's integration, and presents several options that African leaders can pursue in order to rationalize and strengthen the RECs.

70. Many of the impediments to effective integration in Africa come from the lack of transport infrastructure. ECA's work on trade facilitation shows how inadequate infrastructure and non-physical transport barriers are key contributors to high trading costs and supply side constraints. Thus, an important objective of ECA's work in the area of infrastructure development is to help establish an efficient, integrated and affordable transport and communications system as a basis for the physical integration of Africa and to facilitate national and international traffic.

71. ECA is part of the sub-Saharan Africa Transport Programme (SSATP), along with the World Bank, 33 African countries and African Regional Economic Communities. In 2005, the SSATP published a report titled, *Transport and the Millennium Development Goals*. The report outlines transport targets and corresponding indicators aimed at contributing to the achievement of the MDGs. These targets and indicators were subsequently adopted by African Ministers of Transport and Infrastructure in the form of a Declaration.

72. In the area of air transport facilitation, African Ministers responsible for the sector adopted a resolution on the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision liberalizing air transport in Africa. ECA is co-organizing a high-level

meeting of African airlines with the AU and the African Development Bank. This is part of a process to help African countries implement the Yamoussoukro Decision, which was adopted in 2000. ECA also provided assistance to the East African Community (EAC) and Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) to establish airline competition rules, which is one of the areas delaying the adoption of the Yamoussoukro Decision.

73. ECA as part of SSATP, co-organized the meeting of African Ministers of Transport, which was attended by over 200 participants including 18 Ministers responsible for Transport and Infrastructure in sub-Saharan African countries in Bamako, Mali in November 2005. The Ministers adopted a declaration in which they committed to integrating regional corridor treaties and relevant international transport conventions into national legislation, and remove all non-physical barriers to transport. The mainstreaming of gender in transport development also emerged as an important outcome of the meeting. Recommendations made in this regard included the creation of a women's network and capacity-building of female stakeholders in the transport sector.

74. ECA is undertaking a study on the current status of transport development in Africa. Findings of this study would feed into a symposium on *Financing Transport Infrastructure Development in Africa* which will be organized jointly with ADB in May 2006 in Ouagadougou. In addition, ECA is undertaking preparatory activities for the fourth African Road Safety Congress that it will organise in 2007, as well as for the first United Nations Global Road Safety Week also scheduled for 2007.

Promoting the advancement of women

75. The overall objective of this subprogramme is to mainstream gender into development policies, programmes and structures of ECA member States, in order to ensure parity in

the distribution of resources and enable women to participate in strategic decisions with respect to economic and social development.

76. Activities undertaken during the period under review in support of this objective included: (i) refining and operationalizing the various tools and instruments developed in the previous biennium for gender mainstreaming and monitoring progress towards the goal of gender equality. These tools include the African Gender and Development Index, the Guidebook on Statistics and the Gender Aware Microsimulation Model; (ii) promoting the implementation of the *Outcome and Way Forward* document that was adopted by the seventh African Regional Conference on Women in October 2004 (Beijing + 10), to ensure implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action; (iii) strengthening the capacity of ECA Divisions and SROs in mainstreaming gender in ECA's activities and outputs.

77. During the period under review, the secretariat completed work on the development of the following tools and instruments for gender mainstreaming: *the Easy Reference Guidebook on Mainstreaming Unpaid Work and Household Production in National Statistics, Policies and Programmes; the Gender Aware Macroeconomic Model and the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI)*, and assisted member States in operationalizing their plans of action.

78. To raise the awareness of member States on the importance of unpaid work and household production in African economies as well as its implications for policy making, six subregional workshops were organized for statisticians, planners and gender policy experts during the period covered by this report. The main objective of these workshops was to assist member States in operationalizing the Easy Reference Guidebook and build their capacities on the concepts, tools and methodologies for mainstreaming unpaid work and household production into national statistics, policies and budgets through the effective use of the Guidebook in their respective countries. Overall, 123

participants from 39 countries were trained on how to mainstream unpaid work into national planning instruments.

79. Member States are now aware of the rationale of recognizing and valuing unpaid work and household production as well as the policy implications. As a result, they elaborated action plans and requested more assistance from ECA to effectively apply the Guidebook at the national level. The workshop evaluations showed that there had been increased awareness amongst the participants of the policy implications of gender issues in economic policies and the need to use sex and gender disaggregated data to inform economic policy formulation. Plans are underway to provide national level support for the implementation of these tools and guide economic and social policies.

80. As a complement to the Guidebook, ECA took steps to increase the use of time-use surveys to measure and integrate women's unpaid work into national planning instruments as a step towards poverty reduction. During the year, ECA embarked on the process of introducing a new round of regular time-use surveys in six countries - Cameroon, Djibouti, Ghana, Morocco, Uganda and Zambia - with the aim of generating new, timely and more accurate gender disaggregated statistics that address the MDGs.

81. ECA, continues to develop and refine the gender-aware model to evaluate the impact of policies on poverty reduction and implementation of MDGs in African countries. The model is a step further in making national planning and evaluation processes gender responsive. To operationalize the model, South Africa was used as a pilot country to evaluate the impacts of the ongoing trade liberalization in South Africa. The policy simulations of the South African economy demonstrated that impacts of policy shocks such as trade liberalization have differential impacts on men and women's market work, unpaid work, wage, income and welfare. The initial simulations revealed that in order to reduce time burden on women, the Government needs to consider designing complementary

policies through measures that save time or improve productivity of time use such as women's access to education, land, finance, information and technology. The National Treasury of South Africa endorsed the model for use in its economy-wide policy making and planned to carry out more evaluation using the model on different policy variables of priority to the country. The replication of the model has already begun in Djibouti where the process of time-use survey has also commenced.

82. To address the lack of a proper monitoring mechanism to track progress towards gender equality and women's advancement, ECA developed the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI). The tool combines a quantitative assessment of gender inequality in the social, economic and political sectors, and a qualitative measurement of the extent to which member States have effectively implemented the conventions on gender equality and women's rights they have ratified at regional and international levels. Ministers and experts endorsed the AGDI during the seventh African Regional Conference on Women (Beijing + 10). The AGDI is also recognized by African policy makers as a tool to help streamline reporting on various regional and international conventions and protocols on gender and women's rights.

83. In 2005, the results of the pilot studies of the AGDI in 12 countries – Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Uganda – were produced. The 12 countries collected gender-disaggregated data in the social, economic and political areas and also reported on their achievements in reducing gender disparities and promoting the advancement of women. The field studies on the AGDI have revealed that the social sector has witnessed critical milestones in gender equality. For instance, in the area of education, major progress has been made in school enrolment at primary and secondary levels. Of the 12 AGDI pilot countries, three have already achieved gender parity in primary and secondary enrolment (South Africa, Tunisia and Madagascar) with a female to

male ratio of net enrolment rates superior to 1. Four other countries (Cameroon, Egypt, Tanzania and Uganda,) are close to reaching parity in primary enrolment rates with a female to male ratio superior to 0.9. Girls' school dropout in primary education has also slowed down as evidenced in eight of the 12 AGDI countries studied, where school dropout ratios are higher for boys than for girls in primary education. However, major gaps persist in tertiary education with some countries achieving complete gender equality (Tunisia and South Africa) while others (five countries) scored very low on the female to male ratio of net enrolment. The results of the field trials will be published in the African Women's Report (AWR) which is currently being finalized.

84. During the period under review, the subprogramme strengthened an institutional culture, system and practice of gender mainstreaming into its activities and outputs to member States. Following a capacity-building needs assessment exercise conducted in 2004, six divisional gender mainstreaming workshops targeting professional staff of ECA's substantive divisions and the Office of Policy and Programme Coordination (OPC) were undertaken in January and February 2006 to sensitize them on the importance of gender mainstreaming into ECA's work and outputs as well as their impacts on the socio-economic development of its member States.

85. The capacity of ECA staff in gender mainstreaming was built through these workshops. The workshops led to strengthening of divisional ownership of the process of gender mainstreaming into ECA outputs and advisory services to member States. As a result of the training workshops, divisional staff members are more cognisant of the critical need to mainstream gender into their work and are better equipped to address gender equality concerns in their outputs to member States. Each division has designated a gender focal person and ACGD has also assigned focal persons to divisions to provide more systematic backstopping on gender mainstreaming.

Supporting subregional activities for development

86. The activities under this subprogramme were implemented by ECA's five SROs, located in Kigali (East Africa), Lusaka (Southern Africa), Niamey (West Africa), Rabat (North Africa) and Yaounde (Central Africa). The activities were primarily aimed at promoting the harmonization of national policies in support of integration efforts and at consolidating RECs in the overall framework of the AU as well as facilitating the attainment of the goals set by NEPAD in the subregions.

87. In providing a subregional dimension to ECA's analytical work in the articulation of development strategies and policies and in the implementation of regionally and globally agreed initiatives, the SROs not only serve as the operational arms of the Commission, but also as facilitators of subregional economic cooperation and integration and centres for policy dialogue, through workshops, training, data collection and knowledge sharing to strengthen ECA's outreach. In addition, the SROs collaborate with other UN agencies in their respective subregions within the context of the United Nations Resident Coordinator system and the CCA/UNDAF in the implementation of operational activities at the national level.

88. A major priority in the work of the SROs during the period under review related to providing support to member States and the RECs in translating the priorities and objectives of NEPAD into concrete projects and programmes at the country and subregional levels, particularly in the areas of trade, infrastructure, human capacity development, gender mainstreaming, agriculture, food security and the environment. The following section highlights the major achievements of each of the SROs during the period under review.

ECA-North Africa

89. During the period under review, ECA Office for North Africa (SRO-NA) focused its

policy support to its member States and their intergovernmental organizations on assessing the economic performance and competitiveness of the subregion in the global economy; progress in the water and environment sector; and the consolidation of regional integration.

90. As requested by the 20th meeting of its Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) held in April 2005 (Tangiers, Morocco), the Office organized a Round Table on the *Evolution of North Africa Economic Structures*. The meeting discussed seven country studies, drew conclusions and made recommendations related to the methodology, statistical database and sectoral opportunities for further economic diversification and increased regional integration. The recommendations made to member States requested to focus the development strategic approach on the economy of knowledge, namely by deepening the use of information and communication technologies and by upgrading and adjusting educational systems. The experts stressed the importance of cross-cutting issues such as governance, gender equality, ICT and human capital.

91. The Office also organized an ad hoc expert group meeting on *Designing Codes and Implementing Standards for Corporate Governance*. The meeting, held from 5 to 7 December 2005 in Rabat, Morocco, focused on codes and norms harmonization. The participants identified major challenges to adhering to corporate governance and suggested a set of recommendations together with an Action Plan proposing activities aimed at strengthening corporate governance in the subregion.

92. In assessing progress in the water and environment sector, the Office and the UN-Water Africa group organized on 17 April 2005 in Cairo, Egypt, a meeting of about 40 experts from the region to review the draft national and regional water development reports prepared as part of the 2004-2005 work programme of the Office. Subsequently, the reports were finalized and produced as major publications of the Office. These publications are designed to serve as

a mechanism for monitoring progress in the implementation of the African Water Vision 2025 and for providing decision makers with a basis for managing North Africa's water resources.

93. To follow-up on these publications, SRO-NA organized a three-day seminar from 21 to 23 February 2006 in Tunis, to discuss specific regional dimensions on water and environmental management and their impact on development objectives of Northern Africa countries. The seminar, which was organized in collaboration with UN-Water-Africa and the Observatory of Sahara and Sahel, brought together some 50 high level experts, practitioners and policy makers in the field of water, environment and remote sensing from member States, regional and international organizations and institutions, academics and civil society. The seminar adopted elements of a Regional Action Plan on "Water, Environment and Development" which is being finalized by experts who participated in the seminar. It is expected that the challenges identified and the strategies recommended in the final Action Plan will guide all stakeholders in their efforts to implement sound national and regional policies and programmes for a sustainable management of water and environment.

94. Monitoring progress in the area of sub-regional integration was constrained by many factors, including institutional weaknesses, lack of subregional indicators on integration and weak networking among stakeholders. It was in the light of the foregoing, that the 2005 ICE meeting of SRO-NA agreed to the setting up by SRO-NA of an Observatory for regional integration in North Africa. The overall objective of the Observatory is to create a knowledge-base network, which will make it possible to monitor regional integration processes for their reinforcement. The Observatory will collect, analyze, develop, and disseminate information related to regional integration. A first version of the Observatory has been presented to the 21st meeting of the intergovernmental committee of experts held from 4 to 6 April 2006 in Rabat, Morocco.

95. In the context of NEPAD, the Office participated in two support missions to Algeria following the accession of this country to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). As part of the implementation of the self-assessment process, the first mission in July 2005 allowed in-depth consultations with the government, political parties, Members of Parliament and representatives of organizations of the civil society. Mechanisms for coordination were put in place and a programme of work for the preparation of the national report on self-assessment and the Action Plan was agreed upon. The second mission contributed to furthering the process by establishing a dialogue between the executive and members of the National Evaluation Commission on ongoing policies, programmes and projects in the various ministries within the framework of the implementation of the investment programme for the medium-term (2001-2004) and (2005-2009). The National Evaluation Commission is expected to align these policies, programmes and projects with the Action Plan under development.

96. SRO-NA has undertaken a number of initiatives to enhance its contribution to the economic and social development of its member States and their IGOs and improve its visibility as a strategic partner in the subregion, especially in view of the meeting held recently with the Secretary-General of AMU who decided to give new impetus to the collaboration with ECA. The Office relocation from Tangier to Rabat, made possible by the government of Morocco during the last quarter of 2005 will, unquestionably, result in increased synergies with North African governments, AMU, the UN system and other partnering organizations.

ECA-West Africa

97. During the period under review, the ECA Office for West Africa (SRO-WA) focused its work on the completion of planned activities for the biennium 2004-2005 and preparatory work for the implementation of core activities included in its approved programme budget

for the biennium 2006-2007. Emphasis was given to technical cooperation with member States and major RECs of the subregion. The clusters of activities of the Office included: (i) policy initiatives and programme development towards the achievement of the MDGs and the implementation of NEPAD; (ii) advocacy for peace-building; (iii) strengthening of the operational capacity of the ECOWAS Secretariat and UEMOA Commission; and (iv) provision of advisory services to other IGOs, including the Niger Basin Authority (NBA), *Autorité du Liptako Gourma (ALG)* and Inter-States Committee on Fight Against Drought in the Sahel (CILSS).

98. Core activities carried out by the Office served as follow-up policy advocacy to the African Union's Action Plan for Poverty Reduction through Employment Generation (2004). It is in this respect that the thematic part of the 2005 report on economic and social conditions in West Africa assessed the situation of employment and formulated bold policy recommendations on the expansion of a productive middle class as a strategy for the consolidation of the democratic process and peace-building. In the same vein, the 2006 report addressed the issue of the creation of decent jobs through the facilitation of the transition of the enterprises network from informal to formal. The two ad hoc expert group meetings organized during the period under review were devoted to the economic implications of conflicts in the subregion and on macroeconomic framework conducive to employment generation.

99. In pursuance to the objective of enhancing the capacities of the ECOWAS Secretariat, SRO-WA remained a key partner of the ECOWAS Secretariat, UEMOA Commission, as well as with a number of international and regional development agencies that are also supporting the economic integration process in Africa. The work of the Office addressed an array of institutional issues that impinged the progress of economic integration of the subregion. Specifically, it concentrated on: (i) building institutional capacity for enhanced conceptu-

alization, planning and management of economic integration programmes, with particular reference to subregional infrastructure development; (ii) facilitating policy dialogue, especially in macroeconomic policy harmonization and convergence, trade liberalization and economic partnership arrangements (EPAs) and monetary cooperation; (iii) advocating for best practices in cross-cutting areas such as ICTs, gender and environment sustainability; (iv) supporting peace-building and post conflict reconstruction; and (v) promoting good corporate governance and investments. The Office also pursued its assistance in the re-launching of economic cooperation within the framework of the Mano River Union through the strengthening of the MRU Secretariat.

100. SRO-WA enhanced its outreach capabilities and, as a result, significantly improved communication with its major partners in the subregion, including ECOWAS, UEMOA, CEN-SAD, universities and research institutions, government ministry departments, civil society organizations and private sector organizations. The success of the workshop on *Corporate Governance* and that of the *West Africa Investment Forum* both held in Bamako, Mali in February 2006 attested to the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements between the Office and key development actors in the subregion.

101. As part of its active involvement in the work of the UN Country Team in Niger, under the UN Resident Coordinator system, the Office undertook a number of joint operational activities. Specifically, and in the context of monitoring the implementation of the poverty reduction strategy of its host country, Niger, the Office undertook in partnership with UNDP to develop a low-cost methodology for the assessment and monitoring of poverty incidence, based on access to basic needs, and to conduct the field survey in Niger for the validation of the methodology. SRO-WA was also active in the evaluation of the UNDAF of Niger and participated as major contributor to the UN joint programme on gender mainstreaming for that country.

102. A major challenge confronting the sub-region that will require special consideration during the current biennium is the recurrence of humanitarian crises in the subregion, brought about by drought, conflicts and possibly the bird flu. This suggests that the Office pays special attention to the subregional dimension of these issues.

ECA-Central Africa

103. During the period under review, ECA Office for Central Africa (SRO-CA) focused its policy interventions on supporting the implementation of NEPAD in the subregion; facilitating the operationalization of subregional integration and cooperation schemes; and strengthening cooperation with member States, especially in the area of capacity-building. These activities complemented the Office survey of the economic and social conditions in Central Africa. In addition, SRO-CA participated in the UN Coordination System activities, so as to strengthen cooperation between the UN system and Cameroon, the host country.

104. In the context of NEPAD, the subregional institutions and the SRO-CA have been entrusted with the responsibility of managing the implementation of the “Plan Directeur Consensuel des Transports en Afrique centrale (PDCT-AC)” - the Operational framework for the consensual transport plan for Central Africa – which was endorsed in January 2004 by the Heads of State and government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). Following the recommendation of the *CRNEPAD-AC* – the Subregional Committee for Central Africa on the NEPAD – at its meeting of March 2005 in Libreville, Gabon, to convene a PDCT-AC projects prioritization meeting, SRO-CA, in collaboration with the *Communauté économique et monétaire des Etats de l’Afrique Centrale* (CEMAC) and the *Banque de Développement des Etats de l’Afrique Centrale* (BDEAC) organized a ministerial meeting, in Libreville in October 2005, preceded by the experts meeting. In implementing the ensuing

road map for the PDCT-AC, a sensitization mission on PDCT-AC to donor institutions took place in January 2006 with a view to mobilizing financial resources followed by the visits in February 2006 of a Joint ECCAS/CEMAC/BDEAC/SRO-CA Team to the ADB, in Tunis, Tunisia, the EU in Brussels, Belgium and to the Yaounde-based World Bank Office.

105. Further support of SRO-CA in advancing the implementation of the PDCT-AC was the organization of an ad hoc expert group meeting on regional infrastructure programme and facilitation in transit corridors. The meeting, which was held from 17 to 18 March 2006 in Yaoundé brought about 40 experts together from the sub-region and outside, including Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. The meeting recommended the merger of the various facilitation initiatives into a single transport facilitation programme for the subregion, and called for the setting up of a Follow-up Committee to coordinate, with the assistance of SRO-CA, the preparation of such programme.

106. In supporting regional integration and cooperation in general and the RECs in particular, SRO-CA assisted ECCAS and CEMAC in their efforts to increase efficiency and effectiveness, especially by encouraging them to harmonize several competing sectoral programmes and activities. In this regard, the Office developed a consultative framework for the two RECs through a result-bound Memorandum of Agreement, which was adopted and signed by both parties and extended to SRO-CA. The MoU clearly spells out SRO-CA support to ensuring enhanced coordination in the implementation of both ECCAS and CEMAC decisions at the national level and identify priority areas for cooperation. The Office also organized on 13 October 2005 in Libreville, Gabon, a meeting on coordination and harmonization of programmes, which resulted in the adoption of a mechanism on cooperation among various stakeholders concerned with the harmonization of selected sectoral programmes. The Office is currently assisting the

two RECs, work out a cooperation framework in the field of ICTs for development, which is among the priority areas.

107. Still in support of regional integration and cooperation, SRO-CA initiated the organization of a Forum on Investment in Central Africa. The outcome of this Forum will be the establishment of a subregional investment guarantee mechanism, local savings mobilization instruments as well as measures to support investors. An investment climate assessment in Central Africa has already been carried out for advocacy purposes on the need for the establishment of the guarantee mechanism.

108. In strengthening cooperation with member States, especially in the area of capacity-building, the Office organized three workshops drawing on some of the policy research work undertaken different Divisions of ECA. These workshops covered the following areas: (i) a training workshop on the application of “Easy Reference Guide” to engender national accounts and budgets in December 2005 in Douala, Cameroon. It aimed at reinforcing the capacity of member States to produce gender disaggregated data; (ii) a workshop on governance of micro-finance institutions, held in January 2006 in Douala, Cameroon, with the main objective of enhancing the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the subregion; and (iii) a workshop on SCAN-ICT on 5 January 2006 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, to assist Cameroon in training staff to collect data on ICT environment.

109. Direct technical assistance was provided to selected countries in the subregion. In particular, the Office assisted Congo for undertaking its peer review (in the framework of NEPAD) with an advisory mission to assist the team in charge of the assessment process. Another advisory mission contributed to strengthen capacity at the Ministry in charge of Social Affairs to design poverty reduction projects for special groups. The Office is also finalizing a study on the cost and benefits of regional integration for Congo. During the period under review, the Office hosted through its internship

programme four students from Universities in Cameroon. These interns were from Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mali.

ECA-East Africa

110. During the period under review, the activities of ECA Office for East Africa focused on the regional integration process, support to NEPAD, gender mainstreaming and poverty reduction. These issues are indeed interrelated in that their ultimate objective is the realization of sustainable socio-economic development in the subregion. The Office also continued to provide technical support to its member States and major RECs on policy convergence for regional integration, infrastructure development, trade development and poverty reduction policies and programmes.

111. As part of its contribution to conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction efforts in the subregion, SRO-EA launched the Great Lakes Initiative. This Initiative, which revolves around thematic areas, was articulated and supported by subregional networks of experts. The outcome of the work carried out under the Initiative provided inputs to UN/AU sponsored International Conference on the Great Lakes process. The Office prepared analytical documents and a compendium of programme activities for transport and communications, energy and water infrastructure, which were submitted to the Conference.

112. SRO-EA carried out surveys of social and economic conditions in the subregion and prepared reports on the subject as well as reviews of Poverty Reduction Policies and Programmes, analysis of regional cooperation processes and support programmes (financing). Review reports have also been completed on Beijing+10 and manuals on gender-budgeting prepared and tested at special workshops held in cooperation with East African Gender-budgeting Initiative.

113. The Office provided advisory services to RECs within the context of Great Lakes

International Conference, International Conference of Transport and Telecommunications Infrastructure Development for LDCs, Northern Corridor Transit Transport arrangements, to which technical papers were presented and discussed.

114. Increasing awareness of the need for PRSPs to evolve into second generation on the basis of MDGs. Various corridor development programmes including southern corridor have emerged and communication development initiatives such as ESSAY, the establishment of regulatory agencies and forum of high-level policy makers. National information and communication infrastructure plans have been prepared (Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania) and IT initiatives launched by COMESA and EAC.

115. Proposals have been made to address soil fertility depletion and natural resources management and subregional/regional institutions working group established involving ICRAF, ASARECA, ARCT and RCMRD.

116. Gender-budgeting manuals have been completed and land rights for women are now being recognized examples are Ethiopia, Rwanda and Eritrea.

ECA-Southern Africa

117. Activities and concerns of SRO-SA during the past year were targeted at key activities related to regional priorities aimed at shaping the integration process of the SADC region. Within this framework, a number of activities were undertaken. These activities include survey of economic and social condition of the Southern Africa region, which marked major economic and social trends, developments and draw lessons for the future.

118. With respect to regional priorities, the main issues of concern for SRO-SA remained to be addressing regional priority issues in the economic and social fields. SADC is a region rich in energy and still experiences inadequate

capacity in water resources management. The issue of water resources and their augmentation and water legislation are being studied by the Office.

119. Efforts continued to be made in developing the transport systems of Southern African member States in order to meet the economic, social, and political objectives underlying the implementation of NEPAD. SRO-SA lead agency role in this area is well appreciated and its contribution to the preparation of the terms of reference of the feasibility study on the Shire-Zambezi Waterway Project will result in the exploitation of the Shire-Zambezi waters for transportation purposes between Malawi and the Mozambique Channel and accrue multiple benefits to the countries associated with the project. This project is expected to enhance the development of Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia through the integration of infrastructure. It is also expected to reduce input costs for investment in export oriented agriculture, agro-processing, tourism, mining and industrial development and promote cross-border trade in goods and services among COMESA/SADC countries thereby deepening regional economic integration. The TOR for the study has been submitted for funding considerations by ADB, the lead agency on NEPAD Infrastructure projects, with a view to executing it as a Public-Private-Partnership project.

120. It is a region very appreciative of the benefits of economic integration, which cannot be achieved without the coordination of various sectoral policies and the harmonization of norms, standards and legislative instruments. Hence, SRO-SA's proposed regional programmes, plans and policies in the areas of gender, transport, ICT, renewable energy and mining contributed to building consensus amongst the countries of the subregion.

121. SRO-SA in addressing the issues on HIV and AIDS from the perspective of poverty alleviation generated a new perspective, increased the sensitivity of policy makers to the broader dimensions and on the need to provide

interventions to mitigate the devastating effects of HIV and AIDS and its impact on both economic and social developments. Approaching HIV and AIDS from the broader dimensions has also expanded the scope for promoting increased partnership between the State and institutions of civil society in studying its effects on smallholder agriculture; and assisting member States in defining intervention measures.

122. Another major outcome in the area of policy harmonization was the framework for harmonizing mining policies, standards, legal and regulatory frameworks presented to an *ad hoc* meeting of Ministers responsible for Mining in the SADC region held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, from 16 to 20 March 2006. The meeting adopted the framework, highlighting major policy issues related to the operationalization of the framework.

123. Increasingly, the linkage between socio-economic progress and governance, especially corporate governance is quite apparent. This presents a major challenge to find the right balance between corporate profit and private sectors contribution to overall development. One of the key concerns is the negligible effect of corporate activities on the local communities. SRO-SA, in responding to this challenge to find the right balance, engaged experts in a consultative process on how to place corporate governance at the heart of economic development beyond the financial and regulatory aspects. The overall objective of the consultation was on striking the right balance between corporate profit motives, national economic and social goals, and individual expectations. The recommendation to approach the promotion of corporate governance as part of the broader objective to spur faster economic growth and reduce poverty introduced the elements of corporate social responsibility and corporate citizenship to important principles to ensure the private sector's contribution towards achieving MDGs in Southern Africa.

124. Partnership with cooperating partners continued to be an important mechanism for

leveraging on the comparative advantages of partners to address issues of concern to the sub-region. The establishment of REC transport coordinating committees (SADC, COMESA, SRO-SA and SSATP) has created a forum for establishing observatories to assess and quantify delays at border crossings, and the development of the one stop border concept at border crossing points such as Chirundu between Zambia and Zimbabwe. Modalities for developing guidelines for implementing vehicle overload control are also underway in Southern African transit transport corridors.

125. Leveraging on partnership was also quite evident in activities promoting women's movement, in addressing women's access to land and in addressing job creation in Southern Africa. On the promotion of women's movement, the operational collaboration with the Open Society for Southern Africa (OSISA), in the pioneering work of "Reinvigorating Women's Movement in SADC Region" is ongoing. Vibrancy of the women's movement is an essential catalytic driving force in achieving gender equality including job creation for women. The initiative conceived in June 2005 involved a series of activities leading to conceptualization of the causes and effects of the vibrancy of the women's movement in a defined period. This initiative has received the recognition and support of leading women activists and other stakeholders in the subregion. To that end, a round table meeting was convened at the end of March 2006 which, building on the conceptual framework presented and interrogating on it, designed a fully-fledged actionable programme to reinvigorate the women's movement in the SADC region.

126. Land being a vital production asset among most women in Southern Africa, SRO-SA initiated a process to facilitate addressing women's land rights through a regional integration approach. Partnership with the Center for Land, Economy and the Rights of Women (CLEAR) in Eastern Africa was quite useful in addressing the various dimensions of gender concerns. To this end, the Platform for Women

and Water Rights for Southern Africa was operationally linked with the Center for Land, Economy and the Rights of Women (CLEAR) in Eastern Africa.

127. On the issue of job creation, partnership with ILO in defining the job creation issues and in facilitating the discussion at the meeting of the 12th ICE contributed to the quality of the policy tools and measures recommended to boost productivity and accelerate the expansion of decent employment opportunities. The two institutions hope to build on this partnership and are already exploring further collaboration for implementing the recommendations from the ICE.

Development planning and administration

128. The objective of this subprogramme, which is implemented by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, is to enhance national capacity for the formulation and implementation of development policies and economic management through training. To that end, during the period under review, IDEP contributed to strengthening the technical and analytical skills of experts in the public and private sectors of member States who perform the essential functions of strategic economic planning and management through a range of activities which included training, seminars, workshops, conferences, library acquisition, documentation, networking, and policy-oriented research.

129. During the period under review a total of 105 experts comprising mid-career and senior officials from regional organizations as well as the public and private sectors of member States were trained in the fields of economic policy and management, regional economic integration in Africa, applied econometrics for economic policy-making, debt management and agricultural policies. These courses were organized in collaboration with several regional, continental and international institutions including the Af-

rican Union (AU), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) and the Government of the Netherlands, the Institute provided. During the period under review, four short courses. There was an exceptionally wide range of participation in these courses, with all the regions of the continent represented including a high rate of female participation which accounted for 43 per cent of the total course participants.

130. The Masters degree programme in economic policy and management enrolled 14 trainees and 22 theses covering different areas of socio-economic interests. Areas covered by the theses included poverty alleviation, fiscal policy, budgetary adjustment, informal sector, economic growth, sources of growth, financial liberalization, private investment, external trade, energy and inflation. Forty training seminars were organized internally for the second year MA trainees with the aim of getting further inputs that will help improve their research outputs. The Institute hosted seven interns as part of its general internship programme. In addition, as part of its collaborative efforts with other academic institutions, IDEP played host to two renowned economists as visiting scholars: Professor Mike I. Obadan of the University of Benin, Nigeria, and Former Director-General of the National Centre for Economic Management and Administration (NCEMA), Ibadan, Nigeria; and Professor Francis Kern of the University of Strasburg, France. The two visiting scholars participated actively in all the Institute's training and research activities including teaching courses in the MA programme.

131. In the period under review, IDEP staff members undertook six research studies on various policy related issues which were presented at various international conferences; and the trainees produced 44 theses and graduate research papers. Four conferences/workshops were organized during the reporting period: a methodological workshop on the *Impact of Higher Education*, an IDEP-AAU collaborative research effort, a conference on *Africa's Growth and Development* held in Cairo in collaboration

with the Egyptian Institute of National Planning, a conference on *NEPAD and the Future of Economic Policy in Africa*, and a training programme on debt management for officials from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). These efforts have led to increased collaboration between IDEP and other ECA Divisions as well as institutions like the AAU and IDRC.

132. With regard to library acquisition and documentation, the library stock increased to 1,644 items during the reporting period. About 722 new books were acquired, an increase of 53 from the previous period. In addition, 30 new periodical titles were added in the same period with 140 issues received. The number of CD-ROMs was 30, while about 300 periodical titles and 600 records were acquired through the gifts and exchange programme. During the reporting period, two issues of *IDEP e-Newsletter* were published and distributed worldwide.

133. IDEP activities during the past year has contributed to strengthening the capacity of African countries for the formulation and adoption of sound economic policies and programmes as reflected in the positive feedback received from trainees and sponsoring institutions.

Technical Cooperation

134. Technical cooperation activities complement the regular work of the Commission, promote economic and social development, and foster regional cooperation and integration through national capacity-building. Such activities are classified according to their funding sources under the following headings:

- a. The Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC)
- b. The Development Account

135. In order to strengthen delivery of technical cooperation and better respond to request from member States, ECA is in the process of developing a new strategy that would allow for

greater flexibility and effectiveness in addressing many of the region's emerging challenges; and in addressing measures for improved programming, oversight, reporting and performance evaluation of technical cooperation activities as part of the ongoing reforms in the UN. Improved programmatic collaboration with other partners will also be pursued for achieving greater impact in the delivery of technical assistance.

Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

136. The Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation, funded by the United Nations regular budget, is an important supporting instrument for implementing the ECA core programme activities described in the previous section of this report. RPTC, which takes the form of on-demand regional advisory services, training workshops, seminars, fellowships and field projects are aimed at building and strengthening the capacities of ECA member States and their institutions in addressing clearly defined policy and technical challenges in different sectors with particular focus on achieving MDGs and other regional priorities.

137. As part of its effort to promote policy change and strengthen institutional capacities, ECA organized 20 workshops and seminars involving over 500 participants and provided advisory services to 22 countries related to internationally recognized standards and best practices in selected sectors during the period under review. These activities contributed to strengthening the capacity of member States in policy formulation; implementation and programme monitoring with particular focus on such areas as social policy, poverty reduction and achieving MDGs; development of statistical capacities for tracking progress towards development goals; integrated water resources management and sustainable development; harnessing information and communication technologies for development; regional integration and trade with emphasis on WTO-related issues; and gender

mainstreaming into national development policies and programmes.

138. During the period under review, RPTC activities in the area of social policy and poverty reduction were aimed at strengthening the capacity of member States in the design, implementation and monitoring of pro-poor and gender sensitive policies and programmes consistent with MDGs and the priorities of NEPAD, with particular emphasis on issues that are central to the successful design and implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs). In this regard, technical advisory missions were undertaken to Mozambique, Ghana, Ethiopia and Liberia; and also, inputs have been provided to a workshop on poverty measurement and monitoring in Kenya. These countries have started to put in place comprehensive poverty reduction policies and strategies that incorporate social issues and MDGs as a result of these activities.

139. To meet the growing demand for robust, reliable and comprehensive data from member States, much effort was devoted during the period under review to promoting the adoption and implementation of The Reference Regional Strategic Framework for Statistical Capacity Building in Africa (RRSF), which will serve as the reference document for all African countries and their development partners in the formulation and implementation of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). All African countries are required to adopt NSDSs in 2006 and begin implementing them by 2007. In this context, ECA provided technical assistance to several National Statistical Offices (NSOs), Statistical Training Centres (STCs) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the elaboration of their strategic plans for statistical development. Burundi, Chad, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, DR Congo, Gabon, Niger, Senegal, and Togo were among beneficiaries of such assistance. In addition, a group-training workshop on organization and management of statistical systems was organized in February 2006 for students of the Dakar-based Regional Statistical Training Center (ENEA-DSD). These activities contributed to the increase in the number of countries

adopting NSDSs and strengthened capacity for the implementation of comparable national accounts.

140. In support of Africa's sustainable development needs and in response to the needs of nearly 300 million Africans who lack access to safe water, ECA continues to assist its member States, river basin organizations and RECs to develop integrated water management strategies and plans that concentrate on irrigation, domestic water supply and sanitation, and innovative financing mechanisms. It also advises countries on developing treaties and protocols on shared water, which will address such issues as water quality and utilization, hydropower generation, flood management, and conflict resolution. A major achievement in this area during the period under review was the publication and launch of the final edition of the African Water Development Report (AWDR) to serve as a monitoring mechanism for measuring progress made in achieving the targets of the African Water Vision 2025 and other water-related targets of MDGs and NEPAD. This was based on reports from 25 countries and two subregional reports. The report was launched at the fourth World Water Forum held in Mexico City, Mexico, in March 2006. The period under review also saw the operationalization of the African Water Information Clearing House (AWICH) as an instrument for accessing information on water resources in Africa.

141. Advisory services provided to member States and River Basin Organizations (RBO) contributed to strengthening their capacity for effective policy formulation and programme development including equitable management and utilization of shared water resources as a key to sustainable development. In this regard, ECA organized a workshop in Cairo, Egypt, in October 2005, which drew participants from seven countries of the North African subregion: Egypt, the Sudan, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania to discuss and make recommendations on cross-cutting water resources related issues such as water allocations on transboundary water courses, management of trans-

boundary aquifers, rainfall variability in the subregion, virtual water trade, wastewater reuse, cost-benefit analysis of water projects, inter-basin water transfer, water economy and demand management, sustainability and groundwater mining. In a similar way, ECA also provided assistance to the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) in reviewing projects in its master plan for the development of environmentally sound management of the Lake Chad Basin, which was presented at a donors conference held in Abuja, Nigeria, during 2005.

142. RPTC activities in the area of harnessing information and communication technologies (ICTs) for development continued to be aimed at strengthening capacities for the formulation and implementation of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) plans and strategies, with particular focus on the application of ICTs in key social and economic sectors such as health, education, governance, and agriculture. Services were rendered to several member States in this area. As a complement to activities at the national level, assistance was also provided to a number of RECs (COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, SADC and WAMU) in the development and implementation of regional information and communication plans which articulates policy, infrastructure, content and application strategies at the subregional level, including the harmonization of national and subregional policy and regulatory frameworks.

143. Other capacity-building activities undertaken in the area of ICTs for development included the organization of seminars and workshops which addressed the following issues: development and use of open source software, e-government, e-strategies, and capacity-building for research and development in African universities through an initiative known as VarsityNet, which is supported by the Ford Foundation. In addition, the ECA secretariat organized or participated in a wide range of activities aimed at preparing member States for participation in the second phase of WSIS which was held in Tunis, Tunisia, in November 2005.

144. In the area of promoting the advancement of women, advisory services were focused on two main areas: promoting women's human and legal rights and strengthening economic empowerment of women. Within the context of promoting women's legal and human rights, the Secretariat organized several national and regional workshops to assist member States, IGOs, and NGOs in the implementation of their National Action Plans on promoting the legal status of women, and enhancing awareness of international and national human rights instruments. These workshops contributed to strengthening national capacities in the use of tools and instruments for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

145. With the aim of increasing the capacity of policy makers to mainstream a gender perspective in national policies and programmes, and reduce gender inequalities, the Regional Adviser on promoting economic empowerment of women organized a series of gender training workshops during the period under review, and developed a national gender training manual. Assistance in these areas were provided on request to the Governments of South Africa, Namibia and Seychelles. These activities have contributed to increased awareness, among policy makers and development planners, of the link between gender equality and achievement of national development goals including MDGs. This has in turn enhanced member State capacity for gender mainstreaming, an important prerequisite for gender planning and for progressing towards the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, itself an important objective of MDGs.

146. In the area of promoting trade and regional integration, advisory services focused mainly on the following: analyzing the impact on trade liberalization of the Economic Partnership Agreements currently under negotiation between EU and African countries, impacts of the EU Common Agricultural Policy or subsidies and health standard regulations of the EU

on the trade in agriculture with African countries as well as implications of the EPAs on regional integration. RPTC activities in the area of trade also contributed to strengthening the capacity of national policy makers and trade negotiators for effective trade negotiations by helping them understand the emerging issues of relevance to Africa in the context of the WTO agreements and other trade-related multilateral initiatives. Three regional economic communities (RECs): COMESA, EAC and IGAD also received assistance in designing their strategic plans for enhancing economic integration and development as well as in promoting a better understanding of the implications of the EPAs to the regional integration process.

Development Account

147. The development account constitutes a second funding window for ECA technical cooperation activities. The Under Secretary-General for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs acts as Programme Manager of the Account. Overall guidance on its use is provided by the General Assembly. Projects submitted for funding must adhere to criteria established by the General Assembly and be in conformity with a theme proposed for the specific tranche.

148. ECA has steadily increased its participation in projects funded under the DA. During the period under review, ECA prepared and submitted two projects for approval: Strengthening the capacity of African statistical systems to generate gender-disaggregated data to support policies to promote gender equality and empowerment of women, and Sustainable modernization of agriculture and rural transformation in Africa. Both projects have been approved under the fifth tranche for implementation during the 2006-2007 programme cycle.

149. The first project is intended to help African Governments to improve gender policy formulation, programme targeting, including public expenditure programmes, and monitoring progress towards gender equality and em-

powerment of women. The project will be implemented jointly with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The second project is part of ECA efforts to enhance the capacity of member States in the design of sustainable modernization of agriculture and rural transformation (SMART) to help Africa move towards self-sufficiency in food, reduction of hunger and eradication of poverty. SMART components include technology, infrastructure, institutions and policies (TIIP). The project will be implemented jointly with ESCAP, ECLAC and ESWA.

150. During the period under review, ECA was also involved in three ongoing DA projects, which address needs in key areas such as capacity building for the promotion of capital market in Africa, knowledge sharing to support the poverty reduction process and knowledge networking and sharing in a South-South partnership framework. The status of implementation of these projects can be summarized as follows:

151. Project on capacity-building for the promotion of capital market in Africa: The main objective of this project financed under the third tranche is to promote capital markets development in Africa at national and regional levels, including support to building capacity of member States related to the adoption of policies and establishment of the necessary regulatory framework and institutions for sustained development of capital markets. National training workshops organized as part of the project have provided stock exchange operators and policy makers in several countries with additional skills for developing national stock exchanges and mobilizing resources to fight poverty. The project was reformulated in 2005 and activities under the reformulated project have already commenced with the completion of a training manual on stock exchanges. A training workshop for stock exchange practitioners in Anglophone West Africa was also held in December 2005 in Abuja, Nigeria, with 21 trainees from Nigeria, Ghana, Gambia, Sierra Leone and Li-

beria. A similar workshop for stock exchange practitioners in Francophone Central and West Africa is planned for mid of 2006. The project will culminate in a regional forum on capital market development.

152. Project on enhancing knowledge sharing to support the poverty reduction process in Africa: The project is designed to complement the activities of the ECA-initiated African Learning Group on the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP-LG) through virtual and interactive interaction and peer learning among PRSP country teams. The project will nurture African perspective to ensure the relevance of the PRSPs to Africa. Consistent with the PRSP-LG, the areas of the focus for the project include the policy content of national strategies for growth and poverty reduction, the financing issues associated with these strategies, the depth and process of ownership and participation, and the nature and type of partner support. While the Learning Group will continue to meet periodically, the Knowledge Sharing Project will offer a mechanism for electronically enhanced continuous engagement among PRS country teams around issues related to PRSs and the MDGs.

153. Preparatory activities are now completed to launch the electronic discussions this year so as to build strong linkages between PRS country teams and in-country as well as regional and research institutions and networks towards more demand-driven research on poverty reduction. The themes to be covered in these discussions include: ownership, leadership and accountability; growth, poverty reduction and the implementation of the MDGs; capacity needs for achieving the MDGs; and the emerging aid architecture implications for Africa. The project has identified 75 participants in 20 countries to be registered for the electronic discussions. This is a closed discussion involving persons with direct involvement in national strategies for growth, poverty reduction, and the implementation of the MDGs.

154. Project on knowledge networking and sharing in a South-South partnership frame-

work: This project, which has not started as yet, will be implemented in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). It aims at strengthening policy-making processes, content and outcomes in Africa by bridging policy makers' information and knowledge gaps drawing on demand driven research output by Africa's knowledge organizations and best practice cases in the research and policy community of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The project will allow selected research institutions, policy institutes, civil society organizations and private sector entities in Africa to share information and knowledge resources with their counterparts in LAC and generate research output focused on addressing key development policy challenges so as to enable policy makers to make informed policy choices. The substantive thematic areas in which capacity development effort is to focus are: macroeconomic management and growth; trade and regional integration; employment and poverty; and enhancing provision of infrastructure services.

Other Programme

United Nations support to NEPAD

155. As the implementation of NEPAD gathers momentum, the UN system has emerged as one of the major pillars of international support for the initiative. The nature and scope of that support has broadened in the past year. The support of the UN system encompasses a variety of activities, including technical assistance for institutional development, capacity building, project development, resource mobilization and advocacy. The regional consultation meeting of UN agencies working in Africa, convened by ECA, is the mechanism for providing support at the regional level. The regional consultation has established seven thematic clusters around which UN support for NEPAD is organized. These clusters, which broadly correspond to the policy priorities and strategies of NEPAD are: infrastructure development; governance, peace

and security; agriculture, trade and market access; environment, population and urbanisation; human resources development, employment and human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS); science and technology; and communication, advocacy and outreach.

156. At the global level, the UN Headquarters-based Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) engaged in many information-sharing activities to enable the various stakeholders to understand the complex interdependency of the different aspects of the NEPAD agenda. For example, the Office has been successful in raising the awareness of the link between peace and development in Africa and encouraging wider support of NEPAD through the global community as indicated by the very high number of recommendations of the Secretary-General's 2005 consolidated report on NEPAD, which was supported by member States in GA resolutions. Furthermore, a series of formal and informal briefings and meetings on the Secretary-General's report have helped to increase international understanding and support for the objectives of NEPAD, and contributed to building consensus on the key actions needed to support Africa's development in areas such as debt relief for least developed countries, cutting agricultural subsidies, and opening markets to African exports. Also, by maintaining an informative, up-to-date website, the Office endeavours to inform the wider community, those who are not involved in intergovernmental or national machineries, of the key aspects and developments pertaining to NEPAD.

157. A recent poll of the two largest web sites that post *Africa Renewal (AR)* material published by DPI, namely, Afrik.com (which receives about 700,000 hits each month and is reprinted in 20 Francophone daily papers) and *allAfrica.com* (which in November 2005 had 14.5 million page views) considered AR to be an exceptional source of information that would be difficult to obtain elsewhere. As the material is less dated than other sources, it can be posted for longer periods of time thereby allowing ac-

cess to a larger number of people and greater availability to policy makers, academic institutions, the media and activists.

158. On the regional front, the UN joint action through regional consultations is meant to enhance coherence, coordination and cooperation among its agencies, through increased joint activities and programmes. Consistent with its mandate to coordinate UN activities at the regional level in Africa, ECA has convened six sessions of the annual consultations to date and achieved considerable progress in agreeing on a work programme and collaborative arrangements through the seven thematic clusters established for that purpose. An assessment carried out over the past year has shown that significant progress had been made by all seven thematic clusters, ranging from identifying areas of common concern in their work to drawing up plans of action, mobilizing resources, working with African regional and subregional organizations as well as the NEPAD Secretariat, and actual implementation of projects and activities.

159. In spite of the progress made, the United Nations system faces a number of challenges and constraints in supporting NEPAD at the regional level. First, increased financial commitment by the United Nations system for NEPAD programmes will much depend on whether the agencies receive additional resources for these programmes. Second, a closely related problem is that, while the organizations of the UN system are currently working together in many areas, the lack of additional financial resources limits the scope and flexibility in undertaking any additional joint activities. Third, if further progress is to be made, the entities of the UN would need to deepen their collaboration to achieve greater operational coherence in their various programmes in support of NEPAD using existing coordination mechanisms at the regional level.

160. In addition to the collective activities undertaken by UN entities in support of NEPAD, specific assistance was offered by individual entities to advance the work in the various

thematic clusters. For example, ECA actively supports the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism. It helped develop some of the Mechanism codes and standards, provides country economic and governance data to the Mechanism secretariat and has participated in the support missions fielded by the Mechanism secretariat to nine countries: Ghana, Rwanda, Mauritius, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Algeria, South Africa and Benin. In addition to participating in the country review missions, ECA also supported the APR process in reviewing APRM-related documents (country self-assessment reports, country program of action) and in contributing to the preparation of documents (country profiles, background papers, issues papers, and final review report). ECA has also collaborated closely with United Nations system agencies and other partners, in particular ADB and the regional economic communities, in supporting NEPAD infrastructure development.

161. **Harnessing Information Technology for Africa's Development** is another area in which the Commission has made notable progress. With the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) as its core framework, most of ECA activities have been informed by the recommendations and decisions of the NEPAD

Short-term Action Plan (STAP) section on "Programme to Enhance Africa's Participation in the Global ICT Policy and Decision-making Forums" and the WSIS Plan of Action. ECA support in these areas included group training activities such as capacity-building workshops and seminars, convening and facilitating several meetings of the UN sub-cluster on ICTs, supporting the RECs in the development of subregional e-strategies and e-government strategies, etc.

162. ECA has supported NEPAD in a number of other ways. In response to NEPAD emphasis on partnerships, ECA continued its work with the OECD Secretariat in the development of a framework for mutual accountability and policy coherence, which will form the basis for a new relationship between African countries and their development partners. This effort will potentially yield dividend in the form of increased aid effectiveness.

163. In addition, ECA supports the implementation of NEPAD priorities, most of which are at the core of its mandate, through its analytical work and technical assistance in various areas, which are also consistent with the objectives of NEPAD and the MDGs.

CHAPTER III

Meetings of Subsidiary Bodies, Including the ICEs of ECA Offices in the Subregions (SROs)

164. This chapter contains a summary of outcomes of those policy-making organs and subsidiary bodies, which held meetings since the last session of the Commission in May 2005.

165. The intergovernmental machinery of the Commission is composed of the following organs:

Organs dealing with overall development issues

- (i) ***The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development:*** The Conference meets annually in accordance with the decision of its thirty-fourth session held in Algiers, Algeria, in May 2001. A Committee of Experts meets prior to the Conference and provides technical support to the Conference.
- (ii) ***Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICEs):*** ICEs of the five ECA subregional offices meet annually and report to the Commission through the Conference Committee of Experts.

Subsidiary/Sectoral bodies

These comprise:

- (i) The Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration;
- (ii) The Committee on Women, Gender and Development;
- (iii) The Committee on Development Information;

- (iv) The Committee on Human Development and Civil Society;
- (v) The Committee on Sustainable Development;
- (vi) The Committee on Industry and Private Sector.

166. The above sectoral bodies meet in ordinary session once every two years with the exception of the Committee on Industry and Private Sector Committee. Since the last session of the Commission in May 2005, the following meetings of ICEs and subsidiary bodies have been held. The discussions, decisions, resolutions and major recommendations adopted by these meetings are summarized below.

The Twenty-fourth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for Central Africa

167. The twenty-fourth ICE meeting for the Subregional Office in Central Africa (SRO-CA) was held from 20 to 21 March 2006 in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The Committee discussed the economic and social development in Central Africa, particularly in relation to promoting private investment, the links between poverty reduction policies and gender mainstreaming, and the harmonization of integration programmes and activities in the subregion. The Committee also reviewed two reports from ECA headquarters on the rationalization of regional economic communities and United Nations support to the implementation of NEPAD.

168. In respect of poverty reduction efforts in the subregion, the Committee underscored the need to anchor policies and strategies on MDGs. To this end, the Committee

reached consensus on the need to develop a subregional framework for developing poverty reduction strategies. This would ensure greater policy harmonization and programme coherence. The subregional PRSs, should emphasis greater public and private investment into employment generating sectors, good political and economic governance coupled with an equitable redistribution of revenues, gender mainstreaming and a greater utilization of labour intensive technologies. The Committee called for the establishment of a subregional investment guarantee scheme to boost resource mobilization and job creation in the subregion. In order to gain a better understanding of the magnitude and dynamics of poverty in the sub-region, the Committee further called on the member States to develop reliable poverty related databases to guide decision-making.

169. In view of the renewed commitment made by the Heads of State and Government of the Economic and Monetary Union of Central Africa (CEMAC) Summit held in March 2006 in Bata, Equatorial Guinea, the Committee requested the SRO-CA to assist CEMAC member States, whenever called upon, in developing and implementing institutional and structural reform instruments to further integration efforts in the subregion. The Committee further requested assistance from the SRO-CA in building capacities of national administrations in managing regional cooperation mechanisms and instruments, especially within the context of accelerating the implementation of the ECCAS free trade area. As part of efforts to operationalise the tripartite MoU signed between ECA, CEMAC and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Committee encouraged the SRO-CA to extend its support for subregional initiatives to all member countries that are mentioned in the ECA/CEMAC annual collaborative report on Central African economies.

The Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for East Africa

170. The ninth ICE meeting for the Subregional Office in East Africa (SRO-EA) took place in Kigali, Rwanda from 14 to 18 March 2005 under the theme “*Accelerating poverty reduction and creating better socio-economic conditions in Eastern Africa*”. The Committee reviewed the social and economic conditions prevailing within the subregion, with special reference to issues relating to agriculture and food security, and youth employment. The Committee also discussed cross-cutting issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS, outcomes of international conferences on the Great Lakes and inter-relationships between the various development cooperation programmes in the subregion.

171. On the subregional socio-economic conditions, the Committee recommended that the macroeconomic definition of the Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) be brought into line with the MDGs, and that the preparation of the PRSs continue to be participatory and inclusive of all the different sections of the population. The Committee expressed concern on the negative impact of conflicts and the resulting population displacement. It recommended that issues relating to good (political) governance and conflict prevention be integrated into poverty reduction strategies.

172. With respect to agricultural development and food security, the Committee stressed the need to integrate science and indigenous knowledge into the Africa Green Revolution. In this regard, ECA was requested to assist member States acquire technical skills and resources to prepare MDG business plans for scaling up existing agricultural and agro-processing technologies. ECA was further requested to establish forums for sharing information and knowl-

edge on natural resource management and food security, best practices in extension services and technologies that reduce post harvest losses.

173. A major recommendation on youth employment was that ECA should formally convene a working group on youth employment and poverty alleviation alongside the annual ICE meeting of the SRO-EA.

The Twenty-first Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for North Africa

174. The twenty-first Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for North Africa was held in Rabat, Morocco, from 4 to 6 April 2006. The Committee reviewed the economic and social conditions in the countries of the subregion, in addition to trade, water, environment and sustainable development.

175. In reviewing the social and economic conditions in North Africa, the Committee noted that despite the negative impact of the climatic conditions and the increased prices of oil on some countries of the subregion the economic growth rate was maintained at five per cent. While taking note of the high unemployment rates in the subregion, the Committee also took note of the faster growth that has been achieved in foreign trade compared to intra-regional trade. To redress some of these challenges the Committee recommended establishing national stabilization funds by member States to mitigate the effects of exogenous shocks and to extend them beyond the energy sector to include the strategic products; integrating the social aspects including employment, in the economic programs and annual assessment of countries' performances; and implementing systems that foster job creation for the young and for women.

176. Having reviewed trade and assessed the regional integration potential in the subregion, the Committee reaffirmed the importance of trade as an instrument for enhancing economic

growth and as a pillar for regional integration. To speed up regional integration in the subregion, the Committee recommended to reinforce universities' capacities and research centres to carry out works on regional integration; speed up the implementation of a regional infrastructure project based on public-private partnership within NEPAD. Furthermore, after reviewing the potential of e-commerce, the Committee stressed that e-commerce offers the countries of the subregion genuine opportunities to improve their competitiveness and to fight poverty. The Committee recommended promoting, at the national level, ICT use in trade transactions, government and banks. The Committee agreed that the 2006 Secretariat's activities will gear around the issue of trade and recommended to organize a regional forum on trade. The issue of migration was also addressed.

177. The Committee took note of the activities carried out by the SRO-NA as a follow-up and assessment of the implementation by the countries of the African Vision of water 2005. The Committee recommended developing regional cooperation to address all issues related to cross-border water resources; in addition to implementing a regional action plan on water and environment in order to ensure an optimum use of resources.

Ninth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for West Africa

178. The ninth ICE meeting for the Subregional Office for West Africa (SRO-WA) took place from 27 to 29 March 2006 in Lome, Republic of Togo, under the theme of "Macroeconomic Framework for Employment Generation for Youth and Women in West Africa". The Committee reviewed the economic and social conditions in West Africa in 2005, with special reference to issues related to growth, macroeconomic convergence policies and greater utilisation of information technologies in development activities. The Committee also reviewed the future orientation of the work programme

of ECA and SROs in response to ongoing reforms and an evolving NEPAD.

179. The review of economic and social conditions and growth performance revealed that the macroeconomic framework adopted by countries helped to stabilize the macroeconomic environment and stimulate growth. However, growth was not sustained as the sectoral distribution was mainly driven by low labour absorption and services sectors largely dominated by informal activities. Most importantly, it was shown that agriculture has been sidelined in terms of the benefits of the economic strategies adopted. The consequences of these have been the rise in unemployment and underemployment levels. In view of the situation, the Committee recommended that necessary actions be taken to fully transform agriculture for it to be the engine of growth and employment creation. The Committee further urged policy makers to formulate and implement appropriate sustainable rural development strategies as the majority of the work force lives in rural areas. The Committee recognized the importance of the informal sector as a real provider of living to majority of population; but recommended that necessary actions be taken for it to rapidly evolve into a more productive sector in order to harvest its employment generation potential.

180. After a critical examination of macroeconomic performance in West Africa, the Committee noted that the economic policies, which were modeled on the Structural Adjustment Programmes, form the bases of the PRS and the convergence mechanisms in our countries today. It also noticed that those policies failed to curb the growing unemployment, which they for the most part generated. The committee therefore made recommendations for countries to adopt macroeconomic strategies with better fiscal incentives, and which can favour the creation of a more sustained employment generation. The Committee explored different monetary integration approaches in West Africa and progress made in the application of macroeconomic convergence criteria in relation to the creation of a single

monetary zone in the subregion. Although progress has been made in some countries, the Committee noted that the overall performance in convergence falls short of expectations. The Committee took note of progress made on the implementation of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) within West Africa over the past decade, including national ICT policies and strategies. To this end, it expressed concerns on the need to harmonize regulatory frameworks at subregional level.

181. The Committee took note of the UN system to support NEPAD as well as the ongoing UN reforms, which could influence programmes and implementation modalities. While recognizing the soundness of ECA work, the Committee recommended that the design of its medium and long-term strategic plans be done in close collaboration with the RECs and the Joint ADB/ECA Secretariat.

Twelfth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) for Southern Africa

182. The twelfth ICE meeting for the Subregional Office for Southern Africa (SRO-SA) took place from 10 to 12 April 2006 in Manzini, Swaziland. The meeting was convened under the theme "Job Creation for Poverty Reduction". In formulating workable and integrated regional strategies aimed at addressing job creation for poverty reduction in the Southern Africa region, the meeting took into reference the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration on employment and poverty alleviation in Africa, adopted at the Extraordinary Summit of AU Heads of States and Governments.

183. On the particular issue of job creation for poverty reduction, the meeting noted the need to place emphasis on cross-cutting thematic issues to ensure a multidimensional and comprehensive approach. The harmonization of policies addressing job creation should encompass issues of HIV/AIDS pandemic, gender, youth, domestic and foreign investment, infor-

mation and corporate governance. Furthermore, job creation programmes should be cognizant of the impact of globalization.

184. **Building on the ongoing country initiatives** and taking into account the diversity of the challenges, the meeting recommended an all-encompassing and integrated strategy that addresses education and skills for career development and responds to the needs of the labour market; improves access to resources and markets; provides supportive policy environment to business. These strategies should be anchored on sectors such as agriculture with its backward and forward linkages to value addition and manufacturing, services, tourism, mining and others with a potential to drive job creation from the supply and demand sides. The process for formulating the regional policy and strategy should be participatory and inclusive to ensure ownership by all key stakeholders in particular the private sector, labour unions, central and local governments, rural communities and the broad civic society.

185. On the way forward, the meeting suggested a number of actions to be undertaken within two to five years. These actions include priority setting of development issues to constitute the policy framework; preparation of an integrated, holistic and comprehensive job creation policy framework, that is in line with NEPAD; and creation of a database and indicators for monitoring and evaluation of job creation. The meeting stresses the important factor of the ratification of regional agreements and commitment to the implementation of the policy framework.

186. The meeting urged Governments to be creative and innovative in providing a supporting and enabling environment to SMEs development and graduation of the informal sector into the formal sector. Furthermore, the meeting called on ECA and ILO as well as other cooperating partners such as UNDP, UNIDO and other UN agencies; World Bank; IMF; WTO; bilateral agencies and so on to support member States, SADC and COMESA in this effort

that seeks to develop and implement a regional framework for employment creation and poverty reduction and to document and disseminate best practices/models in this area.

The Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD)

187. The fourth meeting of the Committee on Sustainable Development (the Africa Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-4)) was held from 24 to 28 October 2005 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting adopted the theme "Managing Land-based Resources for Sustainable Development," in line with the thematic issues for the global CSD16-17 cycle, which will focus on agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa. The theme also took into account Africa's priorities for sustainable development as reflected in the Sirte Declaration, on the Challenges of Implementing Integrated and Sustainable Development on Agriculture and Water, adopted at the 2nd Extraordinary Summit of the African Union and the AU/NEPAD programmes, particularly CAADP, Infrastructure and Environment. The meeting was attended by 33 African countries as well as representatives from UNEP, UNIDO, UN-DESA, ESCAP, the World Bank, the African Union, ECOWAS, and the European Union. The meeting also served as the Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) for the fourteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-14) to be held in New York in 2006.

188. The Committee reviewed the implementation of ECA programme of work for the 2004-2005 biennium, within the context of its recommendations from CSD-3. The Committee further reviewed the implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and discussed the challenges of managing land-based resources for sustainable development in Africa, as well as emerging issues on science and technology for sustainable development. The meeting further considered ECA programme for promoting

biotechnology in the region and the Sustainable Development Report on Africa.

189. Regarding the work programme and the implementation of CSD-3 recommendations, the Committee recommended that ECA provides technical assistance to member States, through interagency groups like UN Energy Africa, to exploit the region's significant hydro electric potential. To enhance the capacity of member States to implement WSSD and the JPOI, as well as recommendations from other international conferences, the Committee recommended that ECA works closely with the member States to build capacities as well as identify focal points to provide for continuity at the member State level. The Committee further recommended that ECA assists member States develop sustainable development monitoring tools and indices. In relation to managing land based resources for sustainable development, the Committee recommended that a thorough analysis of costs and benefits of alternative land rights be undertaken before embarking on land reforms.

190. The Committee expressed concern at the role of multinational companies in natural resources management. It recommended that ECA reviews this and recommend appropriate policy actions. To this end, the Committee emphasised the participation of stakeholders in natural resources management with a view to an equitable sharing of benefits. In respect of science and technology, the Committee called for increased applied research and the need to strengthen science, technology and innovation in overall development policies and in PRSPs.

191. With respect to the regional implementation meeting (RIM), an overall review of progress was undertaken by the Committee, including the identification of opportunities, challenges and implementation constraints that African countries face. While the Committee noted some progress, it also highlighted the inability of some African countries to meet their goals and targets in sustainable development. The Committee adopted an African position

on the cluster of issues to be discussed at the fourteenth session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. These are energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air/atmosphere pollution and climate change. With respect to energy for sustainable development, the Committee noted the need for institutional capacity building in energy planning, analysis and modelling to inform decision-making. It emphasised the need for policies, strategies, legal and regulatory frameworks that include rural areas and provide incentives for investment into the energy sector. It further called for regional integration of energy projects and programmes and emphasised the centrality of NEPAD Energy Action Plan and the participation of Regional Economic Communities in energy development.

192. In respect of industrial development, the African position called for a broader adoption by industry of values consistent with corporate social and environmental responsibility, such as those embodied in the Global Compact. There was also need to promote cleaner production technologies in the region. With regard to air/atmosphere pollution, the position called for an increase in the roles played by governments and industry in adopting policies to reduce air and atmospheric pollution. To this end, there is need to scale up data collection and best practices while research capacity needs to be built-up in Africa. With regard to climate-change, the position underscored the need to incorporate climate-change mitigation in development policy and PRSPs. There is also need to increase access of African countries to funds from the Kyoto Mechanisms, while at the national level, incentives should be introduced for the private sector to invest in climate-change mitigation programmes.

193. The African position also reaffirmed the commitment of African countries to achieving sustainable development through implementing Agenda 21, the Millennium Declaration, the JPOI and recommendations from other international conferences. It also reaffirmed NEPAD as the sustainable development frame-

work for Africa and expressed appreciation of the role played by the UN family and other development partners in mobilising resources and building capacities for sustainable development. The Committee endorsed the position of RIM for presentation to the fourteenth session of the Commission for Sustainable Development to be held in May in New York.

The Committee on Women in Development (CWD)

194. The tenth meeting of the Committee of Women and Development (CWD) was held from 13 to 14 October 2005 in Dakar, Senegal, at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Senegal. It was attended by representatives from 37 African member States, Intergovernmental Organizations, UN agencies as well as NGOs.

195. The Committee reviewed a report entitled, *Follow-up Strategy for the Implementation of the Outcome and Way Forward*, which was adopted by the Seventh African Regional Conference on Women on the Decade Review of the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action (Beijing +10). The Committee further reviewed modalities for staying abreast

of the status of gender issues in the subregions. It also discussed and endorsed ECA work programme and priorities in the area of promoting gender equality for the 2006-2007 biennium, as well as modalities for making its inputs into the programme.

196. With regard to the *Follow-up Strategy for the Implementation of the Outcome and Way Forward*, the Committee welcomed the recommended follow-up actions to the Decade Review of BPFA and the resolve to remain action-oriented and focused on the national priorities of each country. It emphasized the importance of preparing decision makers in each country to understand their responsibility in integrating gender into their ministerial sectors as a strategy for promoting sustainable development. The Committee endorsed the planned subregional workshops aimed at assisting member States to define and operationalise plans of action to implement the *Strategy for the Implementation of the Outcome and Way Forward*.

197. The Committee is strongly committed to supporting ACGD in its work and further urged ECA to strengthen collaboration with the Gender Directorate of AU.

CHAPTER IV

Managing for Results: Building a Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation System at ECA

198. This section presents a picture of the current status of and future challenges in managing programmes for results at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). While the section discusses the steps that have already been taken in line with the decisions of the May 2004 session of the Commission/Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, it also presents planned future action to further enhance results management as recommended to the Secretary-General by the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) in paragraphs 20 and 22 of E/AC.51/2004/L.5/Add.2 as follows: "...to continue improving the implementation of results-based budgeting and management of programmes with increased emphasis on results" and "that future reporting on programme performance reports be more closely aligned with the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement".

Steps taken to improve the implementation of results-based management

199. First, increased efforts are being made at the subprogramme level to collect information on results as gauged by indicators of achievement throughout the period of programme implementation, including through self-assessments/evaluations. This should:

- Facilitate drafting well-substantiated statements of accomplishments/results at the end of the biennium for inclusion into the PPR;

- Put programme managers in a better position to assess performance of their programmes at the time they will be asked to prepare the strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009;
- Assist programme managers in proposing adjustments in programme's design based on the most recent evidence; and
- Provide a basis for adjustments in the implementation process during the biennium.

200. A major step taken consisted of an exercise which included the ECA Programme Performance Review of the first 18 months of the biennium 2004-2005 at a retreat of all programme managers and PPR focal points. The retreat took place from 12 to 15 July 2005 at the ECA headquarters under the Chairmanship of the Acting Deputy Executive Secretary. The former Executive Secretary chaired the daily wrap-up sessions and provided guidance on the way forward.

201. The main objective of the review was to undertake the mandatory preliminary assessment of programme performance. The lessons learnt from the critical review of the results achieved would be taken into account in preparing ECA comprehensive evaluation of its programme results for 2004-2005 and would also contribute to the formulation of the draft Strategic Framework/Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2008-2009.

202. In order to consolidate the outcome of the review, ECA invited colleagues from the

Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), New York, to provide training to ECA Directors and key staff on “The Assessment of Programme Performance in Results-based Management (RBM)”.

203. In-house training workshops were also carried out for PPR focal points and key staff with the view to improving the implementation of results-based management. All participants were urged to be fully involved in RBM, and ensure that their respective organizational units manage their activities and deliver outputs in order to achieve the expected accomplishments that have been articulated in the subprogrammes.

204. As a result, all units have been able to establish baseline data and to collect data according to an agreed schedule for the measurement of their results for the just completed biennium 2004-2005. Most programme managers and staff now recognized the need to apply the RBM logical framework for the preparation of future reports on assessment of programme results. In this connection, programme managers and staff have now recognized the importance of clear linkages between objectives, expected accomplishments, outputs and indicators of achievement and programme results.

205. The planned future action is now to enhance ECA monitoring and evaluation system to support the implementation of RBM in ensuring that managers of each subprogramme and their staff are committed to a fully results-oriented Commission in accordance with the Secretary-General’s programme of reform.

Building a Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System at ECA

206. As part of his agenda for further change,¹¹ the Secretary-General emphasized the need for a strengthened system of evaluation

¹ see A/57/387

and monitoring to better measure the impact of the Organization’s work and to ensure that programme performance and evaluation will have a practical effect on future plans and resource allocation. Efforts within the Secretariat to reform evaluation and monitoring have been guided by General Assembly resolutions [57/300](#), in which the Assembly welcomed the Secretary-General’s effort to strengthen the system of monitoring and evaluation; and [58/269](#), in which it urged the Secretary-General to improve the format and timing of programme performance and evaluation reports.

207. In accordance with this request, the Secretary-General decided that the first performance assessment at the subprogramme level be undertaken for the biennium 2004-2005. This assessment is now being finalized. Furthermore, the Secretary-General in his Report, “Investing in the United Nations,” issued in March 2006, under his Proposal 18, recommends, in the area of performance evaluation and reporting that:

- United Nations activities in the areas of performance measurement be given increased resources but also rationalized;
- Monitoring and evaluation tools be reformed and synchronized so that their results can be evaluated in the formation of the subsequent budget;
- The budget and planning process be explicitly linked to the results of performance and work planning in order to ensure the effective stewardship of resources provided by member States; and
- A new annual report be introduced along with other steps to consolidate and simplify financial reporting.

208. Furthermore, as demands for greater accountability and real results have increased, there is a need for enhanced results-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of ECA programmes and subprogrammes. Results-based

M&E differs from traditional implementation-focused M&E in that it moves beyond an emphasis on inputs and outputs to a greater focus on results and impact. Building and sustaining a results-based M&E system is not easy. It requires continuous commitment, time, effort and resources. It is important to recognize that a results-based M&E system is a continuous work in progress.

Results-based Monitoring: Lessons Learnt

209. Laudable efforts have been made by ECA in the last two years to strengthen its results-based monitoring function. Results-based monitoring is a continuous process of collecting and analyzing information to compare how well a subprogramme is being implemented against expected accomplishments. In this connection, ECA did carry out self-assessment of performance at the subprogramme level.

210. Results-based monitoring was evident throughout the implementation phase of ECA subprogrammes. Indeed, monitoring with its continuing streams of data and feed-back has added value at every stage from design through implementation. It should also be noted that a functioning monitoring system provides a continuous flow of information that is useful both internally and externally. The internal uses come into play as the information from monitoring is used as a crucial management tool for programme managers in achieving results and meeting specific targets. Information on progress, problems and performance are all key to a programme manager striving to achieve results. Likewise, the information from a monitoring system is important to those outside ECA who are expecting results, wanting demonstrable impact from ECA interventions.

211. This notwithstanding, ECA must step up its efforts to strengthen its results-based monitoring function through the lessons learnt.

It is important to report on key results throughout the biennium. Better monitoring, performance assessment and reporting are achieved when proper mechanisms are established early in the biennium. Effective methods and mechanisms to track progress, collect information and record it should be currently in place. In the last biennium, the divisions that monitored their programme performance haphazardly and belatedly had less convincing results statements and data on implementation of outputs.

212. Experience in producing the PPR 2004-2005 has shown that the drafting of informative, substantiated and convincing results statements at the end of the biennium was made much easier by formulating meaningful expected accomplishments and indicators. To achieve that, indicators need to be more closely related to the expected accomplishments; evidence of achievements must be consistent and supporting information must be available to show achievements.

213. Those subprogrammes that formulated few but well defined expected accomplishments and SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely) indicators of achievement during the budget preparation or refined by means of the "as evidenced by" approach available in the last biennium, generally presented a more informative statement of results. Those that had formulated numerous and vaguely expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement had more difficulties at the reporting time. In most of those cases the statements of results tended to list outputs or claimed achievements in general terms without being able to substantiate them by "hard" evidence.

214. As ECA progresses to a more professional results-based monitoring and performance reporting, conscientious efforts should be made by all towards eliminating such unsubstantiated claims of achievement from ECA performance reporting.

Developing ECA Results-based Evaluation Framework

215. In order to provide technical guidance for a comprehensive system of performance management and policy development, the Commission seeks to strengthen its function of organizational oversight and learning beyond the organization in order to support member States as mandated in GA resolution A/RES/59/250. To this end, ECA is putting in place fundamental evaluation framework in order to gauge more objectively the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of its work in relation to programmatic objectives and accomplishments, as approved by member States.

216. In this quest, ECA learned from the experiences of other entities of the UN system as the organization is moving towards creating a common platform for systemic evaluation. This will be achieved through the work of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), which brings together professional units and individuals responsible for evaluation in the UN system, including its Specialized Agencies, Funds, Programmes, Regional Commissions, OIOS and other global entities of the Secretariat, to discuss and adopt shared views and develop common standards on evaluation.

217. During the reporting period ECA has become a full member of UNEG. The mission of UNEG is to strengthen the objectivity, effectiveness and visibility of the evaluation function across the system; to advocate the importance of evaluation for learning, decision-making and accountability, including its use in inter-governmental and inter-agency processes; and to facilitate partnerships beyond the UN system where appropriate. It is expected that ECA membership will enable it to adapt the UNEG evaluation strategies to suit its programmatic context, and enhance its technical competence to conduct self-evaluations.

218. UNEG strategic approach includes adoption and application of a common set of

norms and standards for evaluation, supporting common positions on objectivity and integrity of evaluation, and on the role and function of evaluation, strengthening the professional and technical competence of evaluators, facilitating mutual support and learning through the exchange of knowledge and discussion of the state of art in evaluation, promoting innovation and joint initiatives to strengthen evaluation in the UN system, and facilitating support to member States in building evaluation capacity at national level to better equip them to evaluate their own programmes.

219. Current status: UNEG has embarked on a series of undertakings to professionalize and harmonize evaluation in the UN system. A key milestone was UNEG endorsement in 2005 of the Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the UN system, aimed at ensuring common guiding principles and values in evaluation in the UN system. UNEG also established four inter-agency task forces to fast-track the implementation of its work programme as follows:

- i. Task Force on “Quality Stamp” facilitates self-diagnosis by each agency of its compliance with the UNEG Norms and Standards, enhances potential for improvement through “learning by comparing”, builds a common perspective to contribute to more convergent practices and tests the practicality of the standards in preparation for the next round of improvements;
- ii. Task Force on Evaluation Capacity Development examines the issues concerning evaluation capacity development. Having recognized that some UNEG member organizations do not yet have a strong evaluation function, the Task Force undertook to develop capacities of individuals and evaluation units as a matter of urgency. Some of the deliverables of the Task Force will include preparing UN evaluators competency profile, and developing a core training programme for evaluators,

- aimed at promoting professionalism and credibility of UN evaluators. ECA is a member of this Task Force;
- iii. Task Force on Country-level Evaluations. The Task Force has identified possible programme countries in which joint evaluations can be conducted in 2006; and
 - iv. Task Force on Evaluation and Results-based Management. It is aimed at generating a body of knowledge for UNEG concerning the present role of evaluation in RBM both within the UN system, and also within the bilateral donor community and multilateral development banks, so as to identify best practices and future challenges for the role of evaluation in RBM. The Task Force developed a web-based questionnaire in preparation for the survey it will conduct to ascertain the role of evaluation in RBM in various international organizations.
- sion, based on the established UNEG Norms and Standards. The framework will encompass programme design, implementation and results so as to generate credible information, and highlight lessons learnt for incorporation into both executive and legislative decision-making processes, for overall performance improvement. The major components of the framework will include (1) Preparation of ECA evaluation policy statement and code of conduct; (2) Institutional framework including allocation of human resources, level of financial expenditures on evaluation, and reporting arrangements; (3) Management of the evaluation framework and evaluation competencies, including quality and content of the Commission's evaluation plan and opportunities for evaluation skills acquisition; (4) Conduct of evaluations, including stakeholder consultations in follow-up of evaluations; (5) evaluation reports and follow-up, including quality control of reports.

The Way Forward

220. In order to support the oversight responsibility of our member States, ECA is embarking on developing an evaluation framework that will guide evaluation work in the Commis-

ANNEX

Selected Publications

COMMISSION

- Annual Report 2005
 - E/ECA/CM.38/2

Economic and Social Policy Division - (May 2005 – March 2006)

- Economic Report on Africa 2005, Meeting the Challenges of Unemployment and Poverty in Africa
 - ISBN 92-1-125100-5
- Implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism in Ghana
 - ESPD/NRP/01/05
- The Globalization of Labour Markets: Challenges, Adjustment and Policy Response for the Informal Sector in Africa, December 2005
 - [http:// www.uneca.org/eca-programmes/policy_analysis/publications/Globalization_of_la](http://www.uneca.org/eca-programmes/policy_analysis/publications/Globalization_of_la)
- Youth, Education, Skills and Employment
 - http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/policy_analysis/publications/youth_educ-skills-
- Capital Flows and Current Account Sustainability in Africa
 - ESPD/NRP/05/05
- The Use of Geographic Information System in National Statistical Offices for Data Collection and Poverty Mapping
 - [http:// www.uneca.org/espdp/statostocs/dpcs/gis/GISinNSOs.pd](http://www.uneca.org/espdp/statostocs/dpcs/gis/GISinNSOs.pd)
- African Socioeconomic Indicators 2005
 - African Socioeconomic Indicators 2005
- Compendium of Intra-African and Related Foreign Trade Statistics
 - 2005 Edition
- Poverty Profiles: A Methodological Note on Measuring Poverty
 - [http:// www.uneca.org/espdp/publications/Poverty_Profiles_a_methodological_ note on](http://www.uneca.org/espdp/publications/Poverty_Profiles_a_methodological_note_on)

- Enhancing Health Systems: Malaria's Negative Impact in Africa
 - [http:// www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/policy_analysis/publicationsNational Commitments_to_tackle](http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/policy_analysis/publicationsNational%20Commitments_to_tackle)

Fostering Sustainable Development - (May 2005 – June 2006)

- Review of the Application of Environmental Impact Assessment in Selected African Countries
 - ECA/SDD/NRP/04/06
- Study on Emerging Issues in Science and Technology: Principles, Methodology and Strategy for Promoting the African Green Revolution
 - ECA/SDD/04/03
- Africa's Sustainable Development Bulletin
 - ECA/SDD/05/16
- African Water Development Report
 - ECA/SDD/05/17
- Subregional Strategies for Preventing and Managing Disaster-related Food Crisis: Comprehensive Long-term Drought Impact-reduction Strategy
 - ECA/SDD/05/16

Development Policy and Management Division

- Development Management Newsletter: Policy Brief
 - ECA/DPMD/GOV/PB-issue #1
- African Governance Report (1), 2005
 - ISBN 92-1-125098-6
- Assessing Public Financial Management and Accountability in the Context of Budget Transparency
 - ECA/DPMD/TP/05/2
- Best Practices in Participatory Development: Enhancing CSO Role in Promoting Corporate Accountability
 - ECA/DPMD/TP/05/1
- Best practices and Emerging Issues on Economic and Corporate Governance
 - ECA/DPMD/TP/05/3
- Partnership Modalities for Enhancing Good Governance
 - ECA/DPMD/TP/05/4
- Institutional Arrangements for Good Governance with Special Reference to Transparency and Accountability
 - ECA/DPMD/TP/04/7

African Centre For Gender and Development

- The Role of Justice in the Advancement and Protection of Women's Rights. July 2005
➤ (E/ECA/ACGD/RC.VII/04/13)
- Measuring and Integrating Time-use Data in National Accounts and National Budgets (UN-ECA, Unpbl.), 2005
➤ (ECA/ACGD/MI.TUD/NANB.NRP/05)
- Technical Report on a Gender-aware Macroeconomic Model for Evaluating Impacts of Policies on Poverty Reduction in Africa: The Case for South Africa. Part I: Building of an Extended Gender-aware Social Accounting Matrix, (Unpbl.) 2005.
➤ ECA/ACGD/GAMM.PD/04/1)
- Technical Report on a Gender-aware Microsimulation Model for Evaluating Impacts of Policies on Poverty Reduction in Africa: The Case for South Africa. Part II: Construction of the Model and Policy Simulation Result, (Unpbl.) 2005.
➤ (ECA/ACGD/GAMM.PD/04/2)
- A Procedural Manual on Construction and Use of Gender-aware Macroeconomic and Micro-simulation Models for Policy Analysis: The Case of South Africa, (Unpbl) 2005.
➤ ECA/ACGD/PB.GASAM.TM/05)

Development Information Services Division

- ICT for Development: State of Telecommunication Policies and Regulations in Africa
➤ E/ECA/CODI/4/CRP/4
- The Internet Governance Space: Exploring the Core Issues from Africa's Perspective
➤ E/ECA/CODI/4/27
- Geographical Data as National Asset: Benefits of National Situs Addressing System for Africa
➤ E/ECA/CODI/4/CRP/7
- The Geoinformation Industry in Africa: Prospects and Potentials
➤ E/ECA/CODI/4/51
- iConnect Africa
➤ Volume 2, Number 1 (August 2005)
➤ Volume 2, Number 2 (September 2005) <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/iconnectafrica/index.htm>
- Partnership for ICTs in Africa (PICTA) Bulletin
➤ January – February 2005 (No 38 – 47) <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/picta/pictabulletin/>

- Development and Utilization of Information and Knowledge Resources in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities: SCAN Synthesis Report
 - E/ECA/CODI/4/12

- AISI Policy Briefs (November 2005) <http://www.uneca.org/aisi/briefingpapers.htm>
 - The Information Society and the Role of Academia
 - Building an Information Society: The Case of Rwanda
 - Democratizing Access: Initiatives in Ethiopia
 - e-Commerce Challenges in Africa: Issues, Constraints, Opportunities
 - e-Government: The Case of the Gambia
 - The Case for e-Strategies in Africa
 - Libraries and the Information Society in Africa
 - e-Strategies for Poverty Reduction and the Millennium Development Goals
 - Measuring the Information Society for Development: SCAN-ICT
 - Using Geoinformation for Policy Formulation

Trade and Regional Integration Division

- Assessment of Regional Integration in Africa II (May/June 2006)
 - ARIA II

- Trade Policies and National Development Plans: Best Practices (May 2006)
 - ECA/TRID/01/06

- Mainstreaming Trade into National Development Strategies: Case Study for Selected East Asian Countries (May/June 2006)
 - ECA/TRID/02/06

- Mainstreaming Trade into National Development Strategies: Case Study for Selected African Countries (May/June 2006)
 - ECA/TRID/03/06

Africa Trade Policy Center (ATPC) Publications

- Assessing the Consequences of the Economic Partnership Agreement on the Rwandan Economy:
 - No. 13 (May 2005)

- Doha Round entre Promesses, Désillusions et Résignations
 - No. 14 (May 2005)

- Evaluation de l'impact de l'accord de partenariat économique entre les pays de la CEMAC et l'Union européenne:
 - No. 15 (May 2005)

- PEUT-ON METTRE LA GLOBALISATION AU SERVICE DU DEVELOPPEMENT?
 - No. 16 (September 2005)

- COMMENT SAUVER LE TEXTILE MAGHREBIN?
 - No. 17 (September 2005)
- Non-agricultural Market Access
 - No. 18 (September 2005)
- Facilitation du commerce intra-africain: Démanteler les barrières pour le commerce intra-africain
 - No. 19 (September 2005)
- Pourquoi l'Afrique s'est elle marginalisée dans le commerce international?
 - No. 20 (September 2005)
- Foreign Direct Investment in Africa: Performance, Challenges and Responsibilities
 - No. 21 (September 2005)
- Effets des accords de partenariat économique entre l'UE et l'Afrique sur l'économie et le bien-être
 - No. 22 (September 2005)
- Evaluation de l'impact de l'accord de partenariat économique entre les pays de la COMESA et l'Union européenne
 - No. 23 (September 2005)
- Evaluation de l'accord de partenariat économique entre l'Union européenne et le Mali
 - No. 24 (September 2005)
- Non-tariff Barriers: Their Prevalence and Relevance for African Countries
 - No. 25 (October 2005)
- L'Accès aux marchés peut-il aider l'agriculture africaine?
 - No. 26 (November 2005)
- L'Afrique et les préférences commerciales – Etat des lieux et enjeux
 - No. 27 (November 2005)

Subregional Office – North Africa

- Report on Economic and Social Conditions in North Africa
 - CEA-AN/TNG/PUB/01/04 and
 - ECA-SRO-NA/PD/2005-1
- Subregional Water Development Report
 - CEA-AN/TNG/PUB/EAU/DZ/05
- Impact of HIV/AIDS on Selected North African Economies
 - ECA-SRO-NA/NRP/2005-3

- Economic and Social Conditions in North Africa: A Mid-decade (2000-2004) Assessment
 - ECA-NA/PUB/06/01
- Study on Intra-regional Trade in North Africa: Rules of Origin
 - CEA-AN/PUB/06/02
- Report on Economic and Social Conditions in North Africa
 - ECA-NA/RABAT/ICE/XXI/2
- Trade in North Africa: Assessing the Regional Integration Potential
 - ECA-NA/RABAT/ICE/XXI/3/I
- Trade in North Africa: Rules of Origin
 - ECA-NA/RABAT/ICE/XXI/3/II
- Evolution of the Economic Structures in North Africa
 - ECA-NA/RABAT/ICE/XXI/4
- Water, Environment and Sustainable Development in North Africa
 - ECA-NA/RABAT/ICE/XXI/5
- Report on International and Regional Agendas
 - ECA-NA/RABAT/ICE/XXI/6

Subregional Office – Central Africa

- Report on Economic and Social Conditions in Central Africa, 2005
 - ECA/SRC-CA/ESC/05

Subregional Office – Western Africa

- Report on the Economic and Social Conditions in West Africa in 2005 and Outlook for 2006
 - ECA-WA/2005/Rec.Pub.02
- Statistical Estimation of Average Exit Time Measure of Poverty in West Africa
 - ECA-WA/NR Pub 04/2005
- Progress Report on the Implementation of MDGs and NEPAD in West Africa
 - ECA-WA/ICE.8/2005/4
- Macroeconomic Framework for Employment Creation with Emphasis on the Youth and Women in West Africa
 - ECA-WA/AD HOC/2006/1
- Report on Policy Convergence Criteria and System in West Africa
 - ECA-WA/ICE.9/2006/5

Subregional Office – Southern Africa

- Report on Economic and Social Conditions in Southern Africa
 - ECA-SA/RP.ESC/04