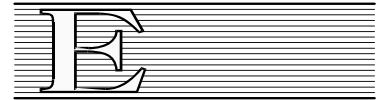




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**Progress Report on the Follow-up to Major Conferences and Summits**



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### **II: Mapping the MDGs: Selected indicators**

## **Follow-up to the United Nations conferences and summits in Africa**

1. As part of its efforts to establish a regular and systematic platform for facilitating regional consensus-building, ECA has continued to undertake preparatory and follow-up activities for United Nations conferences and summits on economic, social and environmental issues. This was the case in 2006-2007 of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the International Conference on Financing for Development; the third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; the World Summit on the Information Society; the fourth World Conference on Women; the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994, which highlighted the importance of international migration for development; and the Millennium Summit in 2000 and its follow-up in 2005.

2. This progress report, which is being submitted to the 2007 session of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, takes stock of the progress made by African countries in 2006 in the implementation of the various commitments made at these conferences, including the support provided by the ECA secretariat to its member States in the implementation of the commitments. Many of these activities were also aimed at assisting member States in achieving the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as these priorities are broadly consistent with the UN development agenda. A separate report on ECA's support to NEPAD is being submitted to the present session of the Commission.

3. Within the approach outlined above, the report identifies the core policy issues that hold the key to the achievement of the conference outcomes and uses them as a tool to review progress in implementation. Overall, it can be concluded from the various reports in this volume that there is demonstrable progress in the region in the implementation of the outcomes of these conferences. However, there are gaps in implementation that need to be addressed. To that end, each of the reports makes a number of recommendations for action by governments, the United Nations system, and the wider international community. It is hoped that this volume will facilitate effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the United Nations development agenda at the national and regional levels.



## **I. Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Africa**

### **A. Background**

4. The basis for ECA's continuing activities to follow-up on the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) is contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), which explicitly mandates the regional commissions to facilitate and promote a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development into their work, and into the work of regional, subregional and other bodies. It was indicated that this could be done by facilitating and strengthening the exchange of experiences, including national experiences, best practices, case studies and partnership experiences related to the implementation of Agenda 21.

5. The regional dimension of sustainable development is also repeatedly referred to in a number of General Assembly resolutions which requested the regional commissions to take action to ensure the effective implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of WSSD in their respective regions. In this regard, the regional commissions were called upon to consider organizing, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD), regional implementation meetings, taking into account the relevant thematic clusters contained in the Committee's programme of work.

6. Against that backdrop, ECA's parliamentary body on sustainable development matters, the African Committee on Sustainable Development (ACSD), now includes Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs) dedicated to reviewing the implementation of WSSD outcomes in the region, taking into account the thematic areas being addressed in the global CSD programme of work. The timing of the ACSD meetings is now decided taking into account the need to ensure that relevant outcomes of the Committee's meetings are factored into CSD sessions. In this connection, the Commission, in preparation for the fourteenth and fifteenth Sessions of the CSD, (CSD-14 & 15), organized a RIM in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 26 to 28 October 2005. The review brought together representatives of several member States, regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations, civil society and business organizations to review progress in the implementation of the WSSD commitments, focusing on energy for sustainable development, industrial development, air/atmospheric pollution, and climate change-- the thematic areas being considered in the 2006-2007 multi-year programme cycle of the CSD.

7. The meeting expressed concern that the limited progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the JPOI, (stemming from the lack of fulfilment by the international community of its implementation commitments made in Rio, Monterrey and Johannesburg) may hamper the achievement of sustainable development in developing countries, particularly in Africa. Concern was also expressed as to: i) the limited modern energy production and consumption and the extreme vulnerability to climate change, which critically impairs socio-economic development in Africa; and ii) the inadequate contribution of the industrial sector, and in particular mining, minerals and metals, to environmental sustainability. The review reaffirmed that the achievement of development goals is contingent upon an enabling international environment based on the legitimate development priorities of developing countries, that addresses the fundamental challenges of financing for development, globalization, and market access in export sectors of interest to them.

## **B. Africa's consensus agenda for CSD-15**

8. In order to prepare African countries for the CSD-15 policy session to be held in May 2007, the ECA secretariat assisted in drafting the African consensus agenda, highlighting Africa's priority issues and policy options in the four areas identified in the RIM, namely energy for sustainable development; industrial development; climate change; and air pollution/atmospheric pollution. The document benefited from intergovernmental consultations and took into account recent policy decisions adopted by African leaders on the CSD-14/15 cluster of issues. The paper will be finalized at the Africa regional consultative meeting on CSD-15, to be held in March 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya.

9. The proposed policy options and strategies for the Africa region in each of the four areas are highlighted below:

### **1. Energy for sustainable development**

- Design and implement energy access scale-up mechanisms in rural and urban areas using energy supply schemes that promote the development of productive and income-generating activities aimed at reducing poverty, enhancing local entrepreneurship, increasing energy consumption capabilities, and advancing the utilization of indigenous energy resources.
- Enhance the capacities of institutions related to bioenergy (liquid and solid biofuel) development for biomass statistics and planning in support of policies promoting adequate and affordable bioenergy services and resources aimed primarily at poverty reduction and national energy security.
- Provide needed resources and capacities to regional economic communities (RECs) for the harmonization of national policies to promote regional energy trade, and implement programmes aimed at reducing energy poverty and enhancing energy security at the national level.
- Support the establishment of flexible and accelerated investment schemes for the development of priority energy and industrial projects such as hydropower systems, and the development of technical capacities needed for the design, implementation and monitoring of these projects.

### **2. Industrial development**

- Facilitate significantly greater access to finance and technology transfer and acquisition, build capacity for growth-oriented and competitive micro and small-scale enterprises (MSMEs) development, and increase empowerment of women resulting in the establishment of agro-processing and MSMEs to foster rural development.
- Strengthen technological capacities, meteorology, standards, certification, testing and quality assurance institutions in all countries.
- Develop industrial environmental policy, regulation and guidelines including the adoption of corporate social responsibility codes in all countries.
- Address inadequacies in physical infrastructure and eliminate constraints that weigh upon the industrial offer, and ensure respect for established technical standards.



- Establish national industrial information networks, build capacity for information technology and promote linkages between research and development (R&D) institutions and industries.

### **3. Climate change**

- Increase the capabilities of countries to carry out assessments of the impacts of climate change, prepare NAPAs to cope with extreme climatic events, and support governments and private-sector entities to design carbon related projects.
- Develop and increase innovative technologies, processes and products such as drought resistant crops, crop diversification, improved farming technologies, water conservation and harvesting technologies, use of efficient non-polluting energy sources and mosquito nets for malaria control, to cope with and adapt to the challenges brought about by climate variability and climate change.
- Enhance and promote policy coherence and integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation concerns into priority development policies and programmes including poverty strategy reduction papers (PRSPs), so as to tackle climate change in an integrated manner.
- Establish climate forums to enhance regional cooperation on climate and early warning as well as improved information sharing to reduce/manage climate-related risks on farming and other sectors that are vulnerable to climate variability and change within the region.

### **4. Air/Atmospheric pollution**

- Establish and foster regional networks of scientists and institutions dealing with air and atmospheric pollution in developing countries through initiatives such as the international project on the System for Analysis, Research and Training (START), Air Pollution Information for Africa (APINA), etc.
- Implement the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and establish a Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) station for sub-Saharan Africa to provide measurements for long-term accounting of greenhouse gases and aerosols as well as the complex atmospheric chemical reactions which determine the depletion, transformation, lifetimes and transport of the gases and particles contributing to climate change.
- Develop air pollution collection and observation capability in all African countries.
- Promote the penetration of improved wood fuel stoves and cleaner energy resources for cooking and heating.

10. Africa's low capacity to develop and implement innovative solutions to its problems is mainly due to inadequate science and technology capacities, including underfunded research facilities and the absence of national innovation systems.

11. Recognizing the critical need for additional financial and human resources and the importance of partnership, the agenda underscores the urgent need for the mobilization of adequate resources, both domestic and external, and for strengthening partnerships for the implementation of programmes and projects on energy, industrial development, atmospheric/air pollution and climate change. There is also a need for adequate policy, legal and institutional

frameworks, as well as the requirement for strong political will to support the implementation of commitments.

### **C. Other achievements in the area of sustainable development**

12. In addition to its work on the follow-up to the WSSD outcomes, ECA undertakes policy analyses and advocacy actions which highlight linkages and synergies among the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The development of tools, indicators and an integrated analytical approach, including promoting dialogue on policies and the exchange of best practices on sustainable development issues form an important part of this process. Other key activities of the subprogramme include assessing the institutional and strategic frameworks for sustainable development in member States as well as the integration of environmental concerns in the development process. Recent publications pertinent to these activities include a major flagship report, Sustainable Development in Africa; Application of Environmental Impact Assessment in selected member States and Establishment and Functioning of National Councils for Sustainable Development in member States. Upcoming publications include: The Development and Implementation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development in member States; and The Trade and Environment Nexus – Selected Issues of Concern for Africa.

13. To a large extent, ECA employs a collaborative approach in executing its sustainable development-related mandate. This approach has contributed to promoting coordination of activities among different entities at the international, regional and subregional levels, and ensures impact in programme delivery.

## **II. Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development in Africa (Monterrey Consensus)**

### **A. Background**

14. The Monterrey Consensus adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development in 2002 represented the first global attempt to comprehensively address the challenges of financing development, especially in the context of meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Consensus calls for a new partnership between developed and developing countries covering six main areas of action: 1) mobilizing domestic financial resources; 2) attracting international capital flows; 3) promoting international trade as an engine for development; 4) increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development; 5) sustainable debt financing and external debt relief; and 6) enhancing the coherence and consistency of international monetary, financial and trading systems for development. Despite these commitments, progress in terms of compliance and implementation has been inadequate.

### **B. Recent trends in Africa and donor countries**

15. Most African countries continue to face a chronic financing gap, which constrains economic growth and poverty reduction efforts. Since 2005, however, there has been some progress, especially in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) flows and the scaling-up of aid and debt relief.

#### **1. Domestic resource mobilization**

16. The mobilization of domestic resources plays a key role in financing investments, which in turn is crucial for creating jobs and stimulating economic growth. However, in sub-Saharan Africa, (SSA) gross domestic savings remain inadequate to fulfil this resource demand. More worryingly, both savings and investment rates were lower in the region over the post-Monterrey period, 2002-2006 (22.0 and 21.0 per cent of GDP, respectively) than during the pre-reform era, 1974-1985 (24.5 and 25.4 per cent of GDP, respectively). Moreover, though the investment rate in SSA is projected to reach 22 per cent in 2007, it continues to fall short of the level considered necessary to halve poverty by 2015.<sup>1</sup>

17. To improve domestic resource mobilization, African governments need to develop domestic capital markets, including bond markets and stock exchanges, which can play an important role in increasing both the quantity and productivity of investment. There are currently 21 stock exchanges in Africa, though these markets tend to be characterized by low levels of liquidity, lack of integration with regional and global markets, and a range of capacity and technology constraints. The regional integration of capital markets can help overcome these obstacles, especially in the case of smaller economies.

#### **2. External private capital flows**

18. Due to strong corporate profitability and commodity prices, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to Africa reached US\$ 30.7 billion in 2005, an increase of 78.5 per cent on the

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<sup>1</sup> This was estimated to be 34.2 per cent of GDP as reported in UNECA (1999) Economic Report on Africa: The Challenges of Poverty Reduction and Sustainability, UNECA, Addis Ababa.

level witnessed in 2004. Similarly, FDI inflows to SSA amounted to almost US\$ 18 billion in 2005, a 58.8 per cent increase on the previous year. As a result of this development, the continent's share in global flows has increased from 0.6 per cent in 2000 to 3.4 per cent in 2005. However, recent FDI inflows have been largely concentrated in extractive industries, and consequently, have not made a significant contribution to reducing poverty. Though South Africa was the largest FDI recipient in 2005 (US\$ 6.4 billion or 21 per cent of total inflows), six oil-producing countries (Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria and the Sudan) accounted for almost half of total inflows to the continent.

19. In SSA, remittances are becoming an increasingly important source of development finance, amounting to US\$6.7 billion in 2005 (for 34 reporting countries in the region). The main recipient countries in absolute terms were Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa, while remittances were significant as a percentage of GDP in others like Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Lesotho.

### **3. International trade**

20. Though African countries are highly engaged with the global economy, the continent's trade position remains marginal. Its share in global exports in 2005 was just 2.8 per cent which is equivalent to its 1991 value but significantly less than half its peak value of 6 per cent last achieved in 1980. The recent slight improvements have been registered mainly in oil-exporting sub-Saharan African countries. These countries achieved an average export growth of 22.4 per cent over the period. The continent's trade performance therefore remains prone to international shocks associated with commodity prices.

21. African countries have an enormous task of ensuring that their interests are safeguarded in the restarted World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Round talks. To date, the trade talks have experienced several setbacks, including a seven-months-long suspension, which has prevented the developing countries from benefiting from a fairer multilateral trading system. In light of this, a rapid development of the mechanisms for implementation of the Aid-for-Trade initiative is of significant importance to African countries. The rationale and scope of this initiative is intended to help developing countries to, among other things, develop supply-side trade capacities that would enable them benefit from international trade agreements.

22. In addition to the WTO Doha Round, African countries are also currently negotiating Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with the European Union, expected to come into effect in 2008. A recent comprehensive review of the EPAs negotiations undertaken jointly by ECA, African Union (AU), and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries indicates that progress in the EPAs negotiations has been slow and varied in the different subregions and there are still many outstanding issues yet to be addressed to ensure that EPAs are truly development tools.

### **4. International cooperation**

23. Official development assistance (ODA) to sub-Saharan Africa has increased over recent years, surpassing US\$32 billion in 2005. However, this substantial increase on 2004 (23.8 per cent) reflects debt relief provided to Nigeria (US\$5.5 billion), rather than a real increase in flows to the continent. Excluding the Nigerian debt relief, ODA flows only increased by 2.5 per cent.

24. In terms of donors' commitments (OECD Development Assistance Committee countries), total global ODA flows as a ratio of gross national income increased from 0.26 per cent in 2004 to 0.33 per cent in 2005, which is still far short of the 0.7 per cent target. Looking beyond the aggregate figure reveals that Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden have already met the target, while Belgium, France, Portugal, and Switzerland have made significant progress towards the goal. Moreover, it is particularly promising that ODA/gross national income (ODA/GNI) ratios have increased in the United States (0.17 to 0.22), Japan (0.19 to 0.28) and Italy (0.15 to 0.29). ODA from DAC countries to least developed countries (LDCs) remained at 0.08 per cent of GNI in 2005.

25. Along with increased ODA flows, there has also been some progress in aid effectiveness. The percentage of untied aid to LDCs increased to 68 per cent in 2004, up from the 1999-2001 average of 55 per cent. The share of grants in total ODA has also increased over the years, exceeding 90 per cent in 2004. This further reduction in the proportion of loans will help prevent further accumulation of debts.

## 5. External debt

26. Debt relief has been granted to eligible African countries under the auspices of the Enhanced Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) scheme and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). As of December 2006, 40 HIPC countries had either qualified, were under consideration or were potentially eligible for debt relief. Of the 21 countries that had reached the completion point, 17 are in Africa.<sup>2</sup> The MDRI announced at the G-8 Summit in Gleneagles in 2005 provided further debt relief for 13 SSA countries. Under the MDRI, the International Development Association (IDA), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) would provide 100 per cent debt relief on eligible debt to countries that had completed the HIPC process.

27. As of mid-July 2006, committed assistance to African countries under the HIPC initiative and assistance delivered or expected to be delivered under MDRI amounted to US\$ 50 billion (US\$ 34 billion under the HIPC initiative and US\$ 15.9 billion under MDRI).<sup>3</sup> Within the HIPC allocation, US\$ 21.6 billion represented assistance to the 15 African countries that reached the completion point as of mid-July 2006, while US\$ 12.5 billion represented assistance to 10 African countries that had reached the decision point.

28. As a result of these debt-relief initiatives, sub-Saharan Africa's total external debt stock dropped from US\$ 241.2 billion in 2005 to US\$ 202.1 billion in 2006. As a percentage of GDP, this represents a drop of over 10 percentage points. Total debt service payments have also decreased from 3.8 per cent of GDP in 2005 to 3.2 per cent in 2006. Both debt stock and service payments are projected to fall further in 2007.<sup>4</sup> In this context, it is encouraging to witness an increase in spending on poverty-alleviation programmes in countries benefiting from the MDRI. According to the IMF, such spending increased in these countries in 2006 by one percentage point of GDP.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> IMF (2006a) "Debt relief under the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative," Factsheet – September 2006.

<sup>3</sup> International Development Association (IDA) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) (2006) "Highly Indebted Country Initiative and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative—Status of Implementation," *Unpublished Manuscript*, IDA and IMF.

<sup>4</sup> IMF (2006c) *World Economic Outlook base*, September 2006.

<sup>5</sup> IMF (2006b) *Regional Economic Outlook – Sub-Saharan Africa, September 2006*, IMF, Washington.

## **6. Enhance coherence and consistency**

29. During 2006, there were a number of multilateral dialogues on key systemic issues, improving the governance structure of the international financial institutions and clarifying the role of official financing of emerging markets. For example, to strengthen international policy coordination, IMF member countries agreed in 2006 to establish a new process of multilateral consultations on issues of systemic importance.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, as discussed in section B.3, the restarting of the WTO Doha Round is important if the inequities, incoherence and inconsistencies in the multilateral trading system are to be corrected.

### **C. Staying engaged – ECA’s contribution to the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus**

30. Since 2005, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has made substantial contributions to implementing the recommendations of the Monterrey Consensus. The main activities have been in the areas of:

- Trade negotiations;
- Private capital flows, domestic resources mobilization and capital markets development;
- Official development flows, debt relief and managing sustainable levels of external debt;
- Governance and public-sector management of expenditure; and
- Research on financing for development.

#### **1. Trade negotiations**

31. Over recent years, ECA has undertaken a range of activities in pursuit of improving the capacity of African countries to participate effectively in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations. The most noticeable impact of these activities has been the strengthening of national and regional bodies’ capacity for trade negotiations as demonstrated by Africa’s participation in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations, such as the sixth WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong in 2005. There has also been an increasing number of WTO bodies being chaired by African Ambassadors, and a higher number of common positions and strategies developed by African countries in recent years. ECA has also provided technical support in the use of economic modelling tools to analyse the impact of negotiations at the country level, especially as relates to some of the proposals that are likely to have significant impacts on African economies.

32. ECA also continued to support its member States in the ongoing EPAs negotiations with the European Union during the period under review. In this regard, the Commission jointly organized a regional meeting with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the NEPAD Secretariat, in Cairo in September 2006, which was aimed at assisting African countries prepare for the adjustment challenges of the EPAs implementation. The meeting provided an opportunity for countries to share experiences based on the lessons learned from the North African countries and South Africa, which already have free trade agreements with the European Union.

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<sup>6</sup> United Nations (2006) *Follow-up to and Implementation of the Outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development – Report of the Secretary-General*, United Nations Secretariat, New York.

33. Furthermore, in the last quarter of 2006, ECA, jointly with the AU and the ACP Secretariat undertook a comprehensive review of the EPAs negotiations; and as noted above, the review has indicated that progress in the EPAs negotiations has been slow and varied in the different African subregions. There are substantially important outstanding issues yet to be tackled in the negotiations if the EPAs are to deepen regional integration and also serve as development tools. In an effort to safeguard African interests in the EPAs negotiations, the review proposed measures for ensuring successful conclusion of the negotiations. The proposals were presented at the third extraordinary Conference of the African Union Ministers of Trade in Addis Ababa in January 2007, and subsequently served as an input to the Joint ACP-EU Ministerial Trade Committee meeting, held in Brussels in March 2007.

34. Also in 2006, ECA, in collaboration with other regional commissions, continued to implement a project on “Capacity Building in Trade and Environment” in the context of the United Nations Development Account, which is aimed at enhancing the capacity of member States to formulate coherent trade and environmental policies. The twin objective of the project is to increase market access for products in developed country-markets while promoting environmental sustainability.

35. In other research-related activities, ECA organized in 2006 the Global Economic Analysis Conference on trade modelling, which brought together almost 100 African academics and researchers. In response to the success of the meeting, Purdue University set up a scholarship fund for African scholars to undertake training and attend conferences. ECA has also been actively engaged in undertaking policy research and analysis and technical assistance on trade-related issues through the work of its Africa Trade Policy Centre (ATPC).

## **2. Private capital flows, domestic resources mobilization and capital markets development**

36. As part of the Capital Markets Development Account Project, ECA organized a number of capacity-building workshops for African capital market regulators and practitioners. This project had a substantial impact on enhancing the capacity of African countries without functioning capital markets. The programme has also helped facilitate regional integration and cooperation in the area of capital markets development.

37. ECA is also collaborating with the United Nations Capital Development Fund in the area of microfinance. In this context, ECA is supporting initiatives to implement the recommendations of the “Blue Book” with the aim of enhancing access to microfinance and a wide range of other financial services in African countries, an issue also addressed in the Economic Report on Africa 2005.

38. The Economic Report on Africa 2006, “Capital Flows and Development Financing in Africa”, provides a rigorous analysis of capital flows to Africa and the challenges faced by countries in mobilizing resources. The report identifies strategies to increase both the volume and benefits of capital flows, and draws lessons from other developing countries in the area of capital flows management.

### **3. Official development flows, debt relief and managing sustainable levels of external debt**

39. ECA has been a vocal proponent of increasing both the quantity and quality of aid to Africa. For example, together with the African Development Bank and the Government of Nigeria, ECA organized the African Ministerial Conference on Financing for Development held in Nigeria in May 2006, where the Executive Secretary of ECA called again on donors to scale-up aid and debt relief and on African countries to mobilize more domestic resources. ECA is also collaborating with the Strategic Partnership with Africa (SPA) to engage donors in designing an aid architecture that minimizes transactions costs and is aligned with the priorities of African member States.

40. As part of the Brussels Programme of Action for African Least Developed Countries, Mid-Term Review 2001-2005, ECA prepared a report on recent trends in African LDCs across the seven areas of commitments, including the mobilization of resources to finance development. This report served as a key input to both the regional preparatory and ministerial meetings held in 2006.

### **4. Governance and public sector management of expenditure**

41. The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) represents an unprecedented commitment by African member States to self-monitoring and reviewing progress towards good governance. As one of the strategic partner institutions supporting the APRM process, ECA continued to provide advisory services to some of the acceding countries, such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, Lesotho and Rwanda, in the context of either commencing the APRM process or implementing an APRM action plan. ECA has also continued to produce Country Governance Profiles, which highlight important governance issues in a number of African countries.

42. In addition to these initiatives, ECA has also provided assistance to member States to help improve public financial management. For example, a meeting on public expenditure and service delivery in Africa, held in Lusaka, Zambia in October 2006, examined the role of good governance and accountability, and proposed measures to improve transparency and institutions. Also in support of governments in the area of public expenditure, ECA produced a report, "The Role of Parliament in the MTEF Process", which served as a basis for a capacity building workshop. The outcomes of these activities were subsequently fed into intergovernmental meetings, such as the African Budget Reform Initiative (CABRI). In addition, ECA is currently collaborating with the Parliamentary Centre in finalizing training modules and the publication of a handbook on the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) process.

### **5. Research activities on financing for development**

43. To underpin ECA's support to member States in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, considerable research work has been undertaken on many of the issues covered in the Consensus. In this respect, research has been undertaken on such topics as estimating financing requirements to meet the MDGs, current-account sustainability and capital flows, the development impact of FDI, and an analysis of the overall situation in Africa in terms of development finance and monitoring of recent trends. This research has contributed both to



ECA's capacity in this area and to supporting member States in analysing the major development finance issues they continue to confront.

#### **D. Way Forward**

44. While there has been some progress in the six areas of the Monterrey Consensus, African countries and their development partners need to take steps to accelerate progress towards mobilizing the resources required for the continent's development.

45. African countries need to focus their efforts on the mobilization of domestic resources by building on recent improvements in macroeconomic conditions, governance and private sector environment; promoting the development of capital markets, especially through regional integration; establishing pension systems; and supporting microfinance institutions and the financing of small and medium-enterprises (SMEs). In addition to domestic resources, governments need to do more to attract external private capital flows through further simplification of investment regulations; promotion of FDI to sectors with the largest impact on employment and poverty alleviation; provision of job-related education and training programmes; and strategies to stem capital flight. African governments need to also channel resources provided by increased aid flows and debt relief into such sectors as education, health and infrastructure.

46. To support Africa, donors need to honour their commitments in the Monterrey Consensus, and further reiterated in the G-8 Africa Action Plan to increase aid flows to meet the target of 0.7 per cent, not just in terms of emergency, debt relief and humanitarian assistance. Donors also need to continue to pay attention to improving the coherence of their policies in aid delivery and aid effectiveness by: focusing more on aid that promotes growth and poverty alleviation; further reducing the proportion of tied aid and increasing the grant element; improving the coordination of donors; and enhancing the capacity of member States to undertake planning and budgeting of resource requirements. With respect to external debt, donor countries need to expand both multilateral (HIPC and MDRI) and bilateral debt relief initiatives to cover more African countries, while supporting all governments in maintaining sustainable debt levels.

### **III. Follow-up to the third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (Brussels Programme of Action)**

#### **A. Background**

47. The Brussels Programme of Action (BPOA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the decade 2001-2010 contains specific goals and targets along with action-oriented commitments in seven cross-cutting areas. These are: (1) fostering a people-centred policy framework; (2) good governance at national and international levels; (3) building human and institutional capacities; (4) building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs; (5) enhancing the role of trade in development; (6) reducing vulnerabilities and protecting the environment; and (7) mobilizing financial resources.

48. Many African LDCs have shown commitment to achieving the goals of the BPOA through active participation in global and regional initiatives aimed at promoting economic growth and development, good governance and conflict resolution, gender equality, investment promotion, and public-sector reforms and capacity-building. As a result, there has been general improvements in human development, growth in GDP, and poverty reduction in some countries. However, there are substantial gaps between the targets of the BPOA and the achievements so far. These gaps arise from various factors, including persistence of conflicts in several parts of the continent, inadequate domestic financial capacity and external support, weak institutional capacity to implement reforms, and the failure of international partners to follow through on their commitments.

49. With 34 out of the world's 50 Least Developed Countries in Africa, addressing the special needs of this group of countries remains a priority area for ECA's work. The commitments and indicators of the BPOA straddle key areas of ECA's work. Since the adoption of the BPOA in 2001, ECA has been collaborating with various United Nations system agencies and member States to promote action towards the implementation of the programme. This has been done through convening stakeholder meetings aimed at consensus building, dissemination of findings of its analytical work, and networking and technical cooperation to strengthen capacity for meeting the BPOA goals. In February 2006, for example, it jointly organized the Africa regional preparatory meeting for the 5-year review of the BPOA with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Developing Island States (UN-OHRLLS) and UNDP Africa Bureau. Throughout 2006 and into 2007, ECA continued to undertake activities in support of the regional implementation of the BPOA. This report highlights the progress made in the past year towards achieving the commitments of the BPOA.

#### **B. Commitments of the Brussels Programme of Action**

##### **Commitment 1: Fostering a people-centred policy framework**

50. Economic performance in African LDCs has improved remarkably in recent years. Real average annual GDP growth rate accelerated from 1.65 per cent per annum in the period 1990-1994 to 5.2 per cent per annum in 2003-2005. In 2006, real GDP growth averaged 5.4 per cent, the highest rate in two decades.

51. Despite improved growth performance in LDCs in recent years, growth remains inadequate to make a dent on poverty reduction. Poverty levels remain high in many African

LDCs and recent assessments indicate that African LDCs are unlikely to meet the MDG target of halving poverty by 2015. It is against this backdrop that poverty reduction remains one of the overarching objectives of ECA's interventions in support of the development of African LDCs. The Commission provides support to LDCs in the formulation of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). PRSPs are critical in ensuring that countries adopt pro-poor growth policies and strategies. ECA established the PRSP-Learning Group in 2003 as a forum for dialogue and peer learning among African countries on the experience with the PRSP process. A consensus that emerged from the PRSP-LG discussions is that the design of second generation PRSPs must offer stronger potentials for growth, address economic transformation, and deepen partnerships around country-led approaches.

52. Through its research, advisory services and advocacy work, ECA has endeavoured to strengthen the capacity of African LDCs to formulate pro-poor macroeconomic policies. ECA also provided technical support to a number of LDCs, including Ethiopia and Liberia, on designing and implementing MDG-based PRSPs. The support provided to Liberia has enabled the country to update and finalize its MDGs report. The findings of the report informed the formulation of Liberia's Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy. In Ethiopia, ECA worked with the United Nations Country Team to design a growth strategy for Ethiopia within the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

53. Building on its work on the PRSP-LG, ECA, in collaboration with the African Union and UNDP, organized the African Plenary on PRSPs in Cairo, Egypt in October 2005. The meeting sought to define an African position on PRSPs and assess the impact of certain design and implementation factors on the second generation of national plans. The meeting also called on ECA to support the monitoring process in African LDCs towards meeting the MDGs. This requires reliable statistics to facilitate evidence-based policy formulation and implementation.

### Statistics

54. To strengthen ECA's interventions in support of statistical development in Africa, within the context of the repositioning exercise, a new division of statistics, the African Centre for Statistics, was established. The African Centre for Statistics has undertaken a number of interventions to raise awareness on the importance of statistics in development and to strengthen national statistical systems.

55. In terms of advocacy, ECA organized the Annual African Statistical Day on 18 November 2006 in all African countries. This event provided an opportunity for national statistical offices, central banks, ministries of finance and other line ministries to present the latest surveys and censuses, and advocate in favour of the importance of statistics for decision-making, planning and monitoring of progress towards achieving nationally and internationally agreed development goals.

56. Another major achievement of ECA has been the support to the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. In close consultation with the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), a meeting was hosted by the Government of the Republic of South Africa in Cape Town from 30 January to 2 February 2006 entitled "2006 African Symposium on Statistical Development (ASSD): The 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses (RPHC)". As a result of the awareness created through these activities, several African countries have begun to make preparations for conducting population and housing censuses in the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses.

## Gender

57. Supporting LDCs to achieve gender equality, through gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women, continues to be a major objective of ECA's work. To this end, the Commission has undertaken a number of activities in support of LDCs. To enhance capacity for monitoring progress towards gender equality and women's advancement, ECA has developed the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI), and initiated national research and collection to build the index in 12 countries during 2005. In 2006, a number of LDCs, including the Gambia, Guinea (Conakry) and Senegal, benefited from capacity building activities on the AGDI and the collection methods for the construction of the AGDI for their countries, which would form the basis for assessing government efforts in addressing gender inequalities and women's empowerment. Other activities included promoting strategies for addressing gender issues and incorporating women's human rights into policy and programme development.

### **Commitment 2: Good governance at national and international levels**

#### Governance

58. The importance of good governance for achieving development objectives is reflected in the BPOA. In this context, some African LDCs have introduced measures to strengthen their institutions of governance. ECA's flagship report on governance, *'Striving for Good Governance in Africa'*, shows that governance has improved in many African LDCs in the last five years, as evidenced by enhanced popular participation, improved accountability and economic management, and stronger institutions.

59. As of January 2007, 17 African LDCs have acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), a voluntary process designed to improve political, economic and corporate governance in member States. ECA and other strategic partners continue to support the APRM -participating LDCs in the preparation of country self-assessments as well as the elaboration of their National Programmes of Action. ECA, in collaboration with UNDP, organized the Sixth Africa Governance Forum in Kigali, Rwanda. The forum provided an opportunity for the APRM participating countries to share experiences and identify best practices in the implementation of the APRM. Through its support to the APRM process, ECA has contributed to fostering partnerships and enhanced networking between African governments and civil society organizations as well as with the private sector.

### **Commitment 3: Building human and institutional capacities**

60. Building human and institutional capacities is critical for the development of the LDCs. Lack of human and institutional capacities constrain efforts towards meeting internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs and those contained in the Brussels Programme of Action. However, the worst threat to building these capacities is currently posed by HIV/AIDS and other diseases, which hamper development particularly in a number of African LDCs. The social and economic impact of the disease is enormous. ECA recognizes the severity of this challenge and has responded by providing capacity building support to enhance LDCs' human and institutional capacities to address the threat. As a result of interventions by ECA and other development agencies, many African countries have been able to understand the nature of the threat, and devised countervailing measures to address it. ECA has also been

monitoring the commitments of African leaders in addressing the challenge of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

#### **Commitment 4: Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the LDCs**

61. The BPOA also seeks to tackle the various structural and supply-side constraints to economic growth and sustainable development. In particular, commitment 4 of the BPOA focuses on expansion of physical infrastructure (roads, railways, airports, ports, information technology and communications); technology adoption and transfer; enterprise development; energy; agriculture and agro-industries; manufacturing and mining; rural development and food security; and sustainable tourism.

62. LDCs have a limited production base, relying on a few agricultural commodities for export with volatile terms of trade. This limits their capacity to take advantage of increased trade opportunities. Productive restructuring is, therefore, critical if the LDCs are to derive meaningful benefits from globalization. ECA recognizes the importance of production restructuring and undertakes research and policy advocacy to raise awareness of the need to diversify African economies so as to enhance the growth prospects of African countries. In view of the importance of enhancing productive capacity, ECA devoted its Economic Report on Africa 2007 (ERA 2007) to the theme, “Enhancing Africa’s Development Prospects through Diversification”. It also collaborated with the AU Commission and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in organizing the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI) in June 2006 on the theme, “Productive Capacity Building—Africa’s Challenge to Global Trade”. The meeting adopted a declaration in which member States committed themselves to strengthening and diversifying their productive capacities by addressing supply-side constraints and improving the competitiveness of their economies.

#### Physical/transport infrastructure

63. Physical infrastructure is essential for increased intra-African trade and integration into the global economy. Two-thirds of all African LDCs lack adequate access to roads, ports and other transport infrastructure. Such inadequacy has implications in particular for landlocked LDCs. For example, exports from landlocked African LDCs face a transport/insurance cost of 32 per cent of trade volume against 13 per cent for all landlocked countries. ECA contributes towards improving transport infrastructure in Africa through its participation in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, and the Sub-Saharan African Transport Policy Programme (SSATP), a joint programme launched in 1987 by the World Bank and ECA to improve transport sector performance through policy and institutional reforms.

64. The collaboration between ECA and SSATP has led to the operationalization of the Regional Economic Communities Transport Coordination Committee in February 2005. ECA and SSATP developed an implementation plan for the RECs transport activities that are funded by SSATP. The aim of the plan is to improve the transport corridors operations in order to facilitate trade in landlocked countries. The activities include, inter alia, the establishment of observatories of best or poor practices, port security audits, establishment of corridor committees, harmonization of legal and regulatory arrangements at border posts, and technical assistance.

### Information and communication technologies (ICTs)

65. Within the framework of the African Information Society Initiative (AISI) and implementing decisions of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), ECA provides support to its member States in several areas, including development of National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) policies and strategies. ECA provided technical support to a number of LDCs in the development of ICTs sectoral plans for the implementation of NICI. ECA has also assisted some African LDCs in strengthening capacity for measuring the development of the ICT sector within the context of the Scan-ICT programme.

66. In the area of science and technology, ECA provided support to a number of LDCs in reviewing, restructuring and updating science, technology and innovation systems.

### **Commitment 5: Enhancing the role of trade in development**

67. Trade is an important factor for spurring economic growth in African LDCs. Though representing only a small fraction of global trade flows, LDC economies are nonetheless highly dependent on external trade. ECA provides support to African LDCs in critical areas of trade. A key objective in this area is to strengthen Africa's effective participation in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations with a view to optimizing the benefits from trade.

68. Within the context of its overall support to the African WTO Geneva Group, ECA has provided specific support to LDCs to enhance their knowledge of issues of special interest to them in the ongoing Doha Round of trade negotiations as well as the EPA negotiations.

69. ECA's support has contributed to strengthening the capacity of LDCs in trade negotiations as evidenced by their proactive and constructive participation in bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations. African countries, including LDCs, are participating ever more actively in the mandated WTO Doha Round of trade negotiations, defending their interests and making submissions to various negotiating committees and organs of the WTO. As a result of their proactive engagement, African LDCs as a group recorded some notable achievements during the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005, particularly in the negotiation on cotton subsidies, where an agreement was reached to eliminate all export subsidies by developed countries by 2006. It was also agreed to provide duty and quota free access for cotton exports from LDCs.

70. Apart from technical support provided to the African WTO Geneva Group, ECA also provided capacity building to a number of African LDCs on the application of World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) and WITS/SMART partial equilibrium models. This support has enabled African LDCs to make informed decisions in negotiating trade agreements such as the Economic Partnership Agreements with the European Union.

### **Commitment 6: Reducing vulnerabilities and protecting the environment**

71. African LDCs are particularly vulnerable to natural shocks such as drought, desertification and floods. Recognizing the frequency and impact of natural disasters on LDCs, ECA undertakes activities aimed at promoting measures for protecting the environment and mitigating the impact of natural disasters.

72. Through its Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSD), ECA collaborates with other organizations in the region in promoting and monitoring the implementation of measures to combat natural disasters, particularly desertification. It is in the process of preparing a report to assess progress in combating desertification and drought in Africa. The report will be considered by the fifth session of the African Committee on Sustainable Development (ACSD-5) due to be held in October 2007.

73. Furthermore, ECA in collaboration with other regional commissions has implemented a project on capacity building in trade and environment. This project contributed to enhancing the capacity of member States to formulate coherent trade and environment policies, thereby increasing market access for products in developed country markets while enhancing environmental sustainability.

#### **Commitment 7: Mobilizing financial resources**

74. African LDCs face difficulties in mobilizing adequate resources for development. ECA has undertaken a number of activities aimed at strengthening LDCs' capacity to mobilize domestic resources for their development. ECA's interventions emphasize the importance of domestic resources in the development of African LDCs.

75. A key activity in this area has been the United Nations Capital Markets Development Project. Given the absence of capital markets in many African LDCs, this project sought to raise awareness of the critical role capital markets could play in the mobilization of resources. The project also aimed at strengthening regulatory infrastructure in those African countries with functioning capital markets, and enhance networking and collaboration among African stock exchanges. Through the project, ECA provided capacity building training in critical areas of capital markets development to more than 235 participants from 21 countries representing a broad spectrum of sectors and institutions, including stock exchanges, regulatory bodies, private companies, and central banks. The training workshops were useful in deepening knowledge and understanding of capital markets and their role in the development process. As a result of the awareness created, some countries, especially those with no functioning capital markets, have put measures in place to facilitate establishment of national stock markets.

76. In addition, ECA has undertaken a number of analytical and policy-oriented research studies on issues of relevance to financing development. For example, the Economic Report on Africa 2006 was devoted to the theme of capital flows and the challenge of development financing. The report addressed issues such as the role of macroeconomic policies and institutions on mobilizing financial resources for development, and the challenges that capital flows pose for economic management.

#### **C. Conditions for further progress**

77. The above trends indicate some progress towards the BPOA during the period under review. In particular, economic growth has been higher than the sub-Saharan average. African LDCs have also shown improvements in political and economic governance. In addition, gender equality, infant mortality, and primary school enrolment, have shown slow but steady progress. However, a number of challenges remain for African LDCs. The paramount issues are inadequate and volatile levels of economic growth, non-inclusive growth, conflict, low levels of human development, and inadequate external financing and debt relief. It is clear that if current

trends continue, African LDCs are unlikely to meet the goals and targets of the BPOA by the target date of 2010.

78. The potential for improving performance towards the achievement of the goals of the BPOA is predicated upon five major factors: (a) improvement in the global economic situation; (b) institutional reforms, good governance and consolidation of democracy; (c) internal and subregional security and stable political environment; (d) reduced vulnerability to the cycle of drought, floods and other natural disasters; and (e) international support for and successful implementation of the NEPAD priorities.

79. Within its overall mandate of promoting the economic and social development of Africa and in the framework of NEPAD, ECA will continue to support African LDCs as a specific dimension of its work programme. This new effort will benefit from improved focus and enhanced collaboration with other organizations, resulting from the ECA repositioning.



#### **IV. Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society**

##### **A. Background**

80. The ECA secretariat worked with African countries on preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society, which was held in two phases (Geneva, December 2003; and Tunis, November 2005), to facilitate the adoption of common regional strategies and agenda for the sustainable development and growth of an inclusive, people-centred information society in Africa. The WSIS process is intended to help stakeholders better understand the global information society, its impact on the international community and roles of the various partners in its development. As a result of the regional preparatory activities organized by ECA, African countries adopted the African Regional Plan on the Knowledge Economy (ARAKPE) in September 2005, embodying concrete initiatives and activities and measurable targets, based on the plan of action adopted at the first phase of the WSIS in Geneva. The plan was subsequently endorsed by the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government in Khartoum, Sudan in July 2006.

81. The first phase of the WSIS resulted in the adoption of a *Declaration of Principles* and a *Plan of Action*. The second phase focused on development themes and the assessment of progress made since the Geneva phase and led to the adoption of the *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*.

82. ECA also played an important role in coordinating the activities of all five regional commissions and arranging high-level panel discussions and a high-level round table during the second phase in Tunis. In order to respond to the challenges of the WSIS process at the regional level, the regional commissions have been given a mandate to mainstream ICTs in their work programmes and to assist their member States in the preparation and implementation of national action plans to support the fulfilment of the goals and decisions of the WSIS.

##### **B. ECA's contribution to the WSIS regional follow-up process**

83. ECA has responded to this mandate by focusing its work and activities on strengthening the capacity of its member States in implementing the Tunis Agenda and the African Action Plan, with particular emphasis on addressing the issues of Internet governance and measurement of ICTs impact at the country level.

###### **1. Internet governance**

84. As a direct follow-up to the Tunis phase of the WSIS, the United Nations Secretary-General convened the first meeting of the new forum for stakeholder dialogue on Internet governance issues - the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Athens, Greece in November 2006. The meeting was convened under the theme, *Internet Governance for Development* and addressed issues of openness, diversity, access and security with the objectives of promoting development and capacity building. As a side event of the forum, ECA organized the meeting of the African Group to agree on an African position on IG issues and discuss the way forward. The meeting underscored the importance of the Forum in the Internet Governance process and the necessity of continued collaboration among all stakeholders on the continent in dealing with IG issues. To this end, the meeting agreed to develop a roadmap that will articulate the continent's vision on Internet governance and establish a regional forum on internet governance under the coordination of ECA. In this context, ECA has set up a virtual forum for dialogue

and cooperation on IG issues. The outcomes of discussions from the forum would be synthesized and presented at the African Union Ministerial Conference on ICTs.

85. In addition, a training course to build the capacity of African policy makers on internet governance issues was organized in Addis Ababa in July 2006. Over 40 participants from 19 countries benefited from the training, which has helped heighten awareness of ICT policy issues at national, subregional and regional levels.

## **2. Measuring ICTs for development**

86. Follow-up to the WSIS has been characterized by an increase in interagency collaboration in implementing some of the key commitments of the Summit. For example, follow-up activities on the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development (PICTA) which was launched during the Tunis phase of the WSIS, involves ten other international agencies and organizations namely, ITU, OECD, UNCTAD, UNESCO, the World Bank, EUROSTAT as well as the five Regional Commissions. The Partnership has developed a common set of core household and business ICT indicators, as a basis for harmonized collection on ICT statistics at the national, regional and international levels. A key objective of the Partnership is to enhance the capacities of national statistical organizations (NSOs) in developing countries and build capacity for developing statistical compilation programmes on the information society, based on internationally agreed and comparable indicators. In this context, ECA continues to provide assistance to its member States on the development of indicators for measuring the impact of ICTs at the country level within the framework of its SCAN-ICT programme. A good example of this was the regional workshop it organized on information society measurement for NSOs in Addis Ababa in March 2007.

## **3. Some recommendations**

87. One of the most important issues concerning ICTs for development is resource mobilization. Financial and human resource constraints have been identified as major obstacles to the growth of the information society in Africa. This was highlighted at two conferences, co-organized by ECA in 2006 in Marrakech<sup>7</sup> and Tunis<sup>8</sup> on policies and strategies for promoting domestic and foreign investment in the ICTs sector. The Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF), which was launched during the Geneva phase of the WSIS as a funding mechanism in support of the development of the information society in developing countries, particularly in Africa is yet to realize its objectives. In this regard, urgent steps and measures are needed to operationalize the mechanism in order to realize the commitments made by various stakeholders on ICT financing.

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<sup>7</sup> International Forum on Information Strategies and Investment, 1 – 3 March 2006

<sup>8</sup> International Forum on Information Strategies and Investment, 1 – 3 March 2006

## **V. Follow-up to the fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action)**

88. Since its adoption in October 2004 by the 7th African Regional Conference on Women, the *way forward and outcome document* has been an important part of the work of the ECA secretariat as well as other UN agencies in the region. ECA has continued to provide support to its member States in translating the outcome document into an effective strategy for monitoring the implementation of global and regional commitments towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

89. Of particular importance in this regard are activities geared towards strengthening the capacity of member States in the adoption and use of appropriate tools and instruments for monitoring progress towards the goal of gender equality set in the global and regional platforms for action, and for mainstreaming gender into national planning instruments. A key tool for achieving these objectives is the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI), which was launched in 2002 to serve as a tool for measuring the performance of member States in addressing gender equality, promote political awareness of gender issues and help streamline reporting on various human rights issues as they relate to gender, the MDGs and NEPAD. Work in developing the index has gone through several crucial stages, and is heading into an expanded new phase in 2007, with field trials in four additional countries (Cape Verde, the Gambia, Namibia and Senegal). A total of 12 countries were covered in an earlier phase of the project.

90. Also in 2006, ECA scaled up its training activities in support of strengthening national capacities in the use of key monitoring tools and indicators, including methodologies for collecting gender-disaggregated data. Several member States also received assistance in drawing up their national action plans to accelerate progress in implementing the commitments outlined in the *Outcome and Way forward* document of Beijing +10.

## **VI. Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development- Programme of Action (ICPD-PA)**

91. The importance of international migration was highlighted during the International Conference on Population and Development which was held in Cairo in 1994, and since then, the issue of international migration has continued to engage the attention of policy makers in sending and receiving countries. This prompted the UN General Assembly to organize a High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in September 2006,

### **ECA activities**

92. As background for the High-Level Dialogue, the ECA secretariat prepared a regional report, *International Migration and Development: Implications for Africa*. The report examined the multidimensional nature of the migration issue and its impact on Africa's development. ECA also participated in several regional and global consultative processes on international migration and development, convened to prepare member States for the dialogue. This included an international symposium on international migration and development, jointly organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Government of Italy, in Turin, Italy in June 2006.

93. The symposium brought together representatives of several developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including African countries, UN organizations and civil society groups to discuss the technical and policy dimensions of the migration issue, with particular focus on identifying appropriate ways and means to maximize its development benefits and minimize its negative impacts. During the symposium, ECA organized a session on *International migration and the achievement of the MDGs in Africa* to enhance understanding of the issues of international migration and their linkage to development.

94. During the High Level Dialogue in New York, ECA also participated in a number of sessions and side events which focused, in particular on the regional dimensions of international migration and development, and the importance of partnerships and capacity building in harnessing international migration for development.

95. Since the high-level dialogue, ECA has continued to work with other partners such as DESA, and other regional organizations like the AU, ILO and IOM to assist African member States in harnessing the development potential of international migration.

## **VII. Follow-up to the Millennium Declaration, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the outcomes of the 2005 World Summit relating to the MDGs in Africa**

### **A. Background**

96. This report is the latest update by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on the progress that Africa is making towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It builds on the first report prepared in 2005 in the preparation for the UN World Summit and mid-term review of progress towards the MDGs and is derived from ongoing work on a much fuller report (9) being prepared jointly with the African Union Commission (AUC) for the African Union (AU) Summit in July 2007. The report also complements the issues paper prepared for this Conference.

97. In 2005, the international community, at the UN World Summit re-affirmed its commitment to the (MDGs). The mid-point on the time-line to these goals will be reached in September 2007. This is a clear reminder to African countries that slightly over 7 years remain to achieve all the MDGs. Recent aggregate and disaggregated on progress made towards MDGs globally, regionally and at the country level continue to indicate that Africa is at risk of not meeting all the goals except in the North Africa region. However, there have also been positive developments in recent years which indicate that the challenge is not insurmountable, if both national and international policy measures are scaled up in a number of critical areas.

98. In the first instance, there continues to be encouraging developments with respect to a key ingredient for attaining MDGs in Africa: broad and sustained commitment to the MDG agenda, particularly at the highest levels of decision-making. Over the past three years African countries and the political leadership have demonstrated their commitment to the MDGs which continue to be at the centre of the NEPAD vision and domestic programmes. The AU concretely expressed its commitment to facilitating acceleration of progress towards the Goals by Africa countries through a Common Position that it discussed at its 2005 Summit and at the 2005 World Development Summit. The AU's commitment to the MDGs was reaffirmed at the AU Summit in Banjul, the Gambia, which also called on member States to adopt concrete measures to scale-up interventions known to work. Finally, Africa's Ministers of Finance, Economic Planning and Development as well as the key Sector Ministries have consistently placed MDGs at the center of their Conferences and Meetings, particularly since 2005.

99. There have also been improvements in the political and economic environment, a crucial pre-condition for achieving the MDGs. Participatory democracy is increasingly taking hold and most countries have persevered with economic reforms. Concrete achievements have been made in containing the spread of conflicts in the continent. The number of countries experiencing active conflicts has reduced dramatically from the level a decade ago. However, beyond nurturing the requisite overall environment for making the desired progress towards MDGs, the tangible achievements on the economic growth front since 2000 continue to be sustained. When placed in a longer-term context, Africa's recent growth performance, which improved significantly from just under 3.0 per cent in 1999 to 5.4 per cent in 2004, 5.6 per cent in 2005, 5.2 per cent in 2006, but to a projected 6 per cent in 2007, has been quite impressive. The strong performance that has been maintained over the past 5 to 6 years has not been

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<sup>9</sup> Assessing Africa's Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goals, 2007

registered by only the oil-producing countries, but also a significant number of oil importing countries.

100. This growth has translated into a favourable per capita annual income growth of 3 per cent on average. Achievements with respect to key macroeconomic indicators have also been strong: average inflation levels have remained stable in single digits and budgetary deficits have largely been contained in most of the countries. In addition, current account deficits have become more manageable while debt sustainability has improved measurably owing to an increasing number of countries benefiting from the HIPC initiative. Clearly, the continent's persistence with sometimes difficult macroeconomic reforms during the last decade and half has begun to pay off. Meaningful progress has also been made by many countries towards some of these goals in, for example, education, HIV/AIDS, and gender parity in political leadership. However, most countries of the region continue to be off-track to meet all the goals by 2015.

101. Recognizing the imperative to intensify efforts to reach the goals, World leaders, in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit urged countries with extreme poverty to "adopt, by 2006, and implement comprehensive national development strategies to achieve the internationally agreed goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals"<sup>10</sup>. Operationalizing the time bound-MDG targets within national planning frameworks involves preparing strategies that are sufficiently ambitious, comprehensive enough to address all requirements and areas, grounded on robust financing strategy and macroeconomic framework and anchored on an implementation strategy incorporating measures addressing capacity constraints.

102. Two years on, some measurable progress has been made towards the formulation and implementation of MDG-based strategies. With initial impetus through the UN Millennium Project<sup>11</sup> and subsequently UNDP in a broadening partnership including the development partners, UN agencies, ECA and the Bretton Woods institutions, thirty five (35) African countries<sup>12</sup> have embarked on the process of preparing and implementing MDG-based national strategies and action plans. In all of these countries, requisite capacity, though of varying quality, has been created for carrying out needs assessments while there are high-level undertakings to ensure that plans derived from the assessments are MDGs-consistent. The prospects and possibilities of quick impact initiatives such as free malaria nets distribution, food subsidies for education, etc., have increasingly gained currency with countries registering advances in several MDGs. Nonetheless, evidence shows that the region's recent positive economic performance has not yet had a demonstrably meaningful impact on poverty and the other MDGs. According to recent estimates, the proportion of the population living under the poverty line is estimated to have increased from 45 per cent in 2000 to 47 per cent in 2006.

103. The MDGs on gender equality and maternal health are of special concern. The importance of improved gender outcomes to achieve all the other MDGs has been well documented and it is acknowledged that progress on poverty, health, education and environmental outcomes is dependent to a great extent on improvements in the lives of women and girls. While many countries have made some progress towards the official MDG target of improving gender parity in education, overall levels remain low, especially at higher levels of

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<sup>10</sup> Article 22a-A/RES/60/1, 2005

<sup>11</sup> The UNMP ceased to exist in December 2006.

<sup>12</sup> Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda.

education. Other dimensions of gender equality- equitable access to health facilities, access to basic infrastructure (water, energy, roads) to reduce time burden of poverty, political and economic participation of women and girls for example- show even less progress. Such gender inequalities also slow progress towards the achievement of the MDGs in the region.

## **B. Tracking Progress**

104. This Section of this report presents evidence on progress by African countries towards the MDGs. The data for this report are from the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD<sup>13</sup>). No data were directly obtained from countries that may have much more recent data on the targets and indicators. There is thus the possibility that the data reported hereunder could differ from evidence from the more recent ones. Maps, attached as annexes to this report, present evidence on varying performance of countries on selected indicators<sup>14</sup>. The analysis clearly shows the variability of progress across countries and subregions of the continent.

### **Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

#### **Target 2: Halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger**

105. This goal has two targets – the income target and the nutrition target on the income metric are scanty, sparse and unavailable for many countries. Very few countries have recent household surveys and the few household surveys that exist are too outdated to be useful for analysis. However, on nutrition are more complete. Hence, progress on hunger is what is reported hereunder.

106. Most (62 per cent) of the forty-six African countries, for which data are available (See Figure 1), experienced an improvement in hunger conditions during the period 1991-2002. By 2002, Djibouti, Gabon and Ghana had achieved the MDG goal of halving the population that is undernourished. Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Seychelles, and Tunisia, were on track to achieving the goal by 2015. The proportion of those undernourished increased in 11 countries including Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Sierra Leone Swaziland and Tanzania. The incidence of hunger worsened particularly in countries emerging from conflict such as Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, and Liberia.

107. However, other post conflict countries like oil-rich Angola and Mozambique have been quite successful in reducing the incidence of hunger. Fifteen percent of the countries namely, Algeria, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe, experienced virtually no change in undernourishment. The reason for this is that most North African countries had very good initial conditions. From a subregional perspective, East Africa was the only region to experience, on aggregate, an increase in the incidence of undernourishment during 1991-2002. This was probably due to a 3-year drought in the region. No are reported for the Horn of Africa. Central Africa had the largest improvement in undernourishment followed by West, Southern and North Africa. Lack of more recent data remains a major constraint to monitoring progress.

<sup>13</sup> See <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg.aspx>

<sup>14</sup> The full set of maps, on which they are based and the tables can be found at <http://geoinfo.unece.org>

## Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

<b>Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling</b>
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108. Many countries have made tremendous progress towards MDG 2. At current rate, a good number of countries will achieve all the indicators and more countries will achieve at least the indicator of universal primary enrolment. However, the second order effects of universal primary education are becoming evident in the bulge of applicants seeking places in secondary schools, high pupil-teacher ratios and decrease in quality.

109. Significant improvements in net enrolment ratio in primary education: The continent recorded significant progress in educating its children during 1990 to 2004, but the rate of progress is not enough to achieve the goal of universal primary education by 2015. Overall net primary enrolment ratio increased from 53 per cent in 1990 to 64 per cent in 2004. On country level, there are wide disparities and some success stories.

110. In the 31 countries for which reliable data are available, eight countries already have a primary enrolment rate exceeding 90 per cent (for both sexes). In this group are Algeria, Cape Verde, Egypt, Malawi, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles. But six countries - Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mali and the Niger - have a primary enrolment rate of less than 50 per cent. More than 80 per cent of these 31 countries recorded an increase in net enrolment rates; thirteen recorded an increase of 20 per cent or more; and four recorded a decrease over the review period. Rural- urban disparities in primary school enrolment in many countries remain large.

111. Algeria and Mauritius have fully achieved the goal of universal primary education, according to reliable indicators. Countries that are on track to meet the indicator of universal primary enrolment of boys and girls alike include Cape Verde, Egypt, the Gambia, Guinea, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Togo. A high number of countries appear to have “missed the boat” so far. Among these are Burundi, Burkina Faso, Djibouti and the Niger that started with very difficult initial conditions.

112. Primary completion rates lag behind enrolment rates: In eight of the 31 countries for which are available, more than 50 percent of pupils drop out of primary school before reaching grade five. The drop-out problem is especially serious in Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, and the Niger. There appears to be some relationship between the achievement of universal primary enrolment and the drop-out rate: In countries that have already achieved universal primary enrolment, the majority of the pupils also complete primary school. However, in countries where the enrolment rate is low, the majority of pupils drop out before reaching grade five as in Burkina Faso, Djibouti, and the Niger.

113. Youth literacy (15-24 year olds) has improved in 75 per cent of these countries: Equatorial Guinea, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe<sup>15</sup> have already achieved youth literacy of more than 90 per cent. Youth literacy improved in 75 per cent of the countries. Of these countries, Botswana, Burundi, Guinea, Malawi, Mauritania, the Niger, the Sudan, and Togo recorded youth literacy improvements of more than 10 per cent between 1990 and 2004. However, Youth literacy rates decreased in Chad, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali,

<sup>15</sup> For Zimbabwe the data is from 1990.



Tanzania, and Zambia. Countries that have low youth literacy levels of less than 50 per cent include Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Guinea, Mali the Niger, and Sierra Leone.

### **Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women**

<b>Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels of education no later than 2015</b>
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114. The southern Africa Region is by far the best performer on this goal MDG 3, followed by North Africa, and then East Africa. West Africa (fourth) and Central Africa (fifth) need to work more on this goal.

115. Primary education: Most African countries are likely to reach the gender parity goal by 2015: Nine countries - the Gambia, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles and Uganda - had already reached gender parity in primary education by 2005. In some countries the enrolment of girls outpaces boys' enrolment. To tackle this problem, Lesotho and Namibia appear to have introduced proactive programmes to address this imbalance. The slowest on this target are the Central African Republic, Chad and Guinea Bissau.

116. Secondary education: progress toward gender parity is slower: The goal of gender parity in secondary education was achieved in 2004 in twelve countries. These are: Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Lesotho, Libya, Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland and Tunisia. Seventeen countries are likely to achieve the goal; of these Egypt, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, the Sudan and Zimbabwe are very close to achieving the goal. Kenya and Mauritius had already reached the goal in 2003 and 2004 respectively but their performance decreased slightly in 2004. The following eleven countries that have a good potential to achieve gender equality in secondary education by 2015 are: Congo, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, and United Republic of Tanzania. Rwanda, which had achieved gender parity in 1999 with an index of 1, has since regressed.

117. Tertiary education: the picture is gloomy: Gender disaggregated on tertiary education remain a challenge as data are not available for many countries. Nonetheless, available data show that nine countries - Algeria, Cape Verde, Lesotho, Libya, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and Tunisia have achieved the target of gender parity in tertiary education. Madagascar and the Sudan are close to satisfying this indicator and three more countries - Botswana, Djibouti and Morocco - are likely to achieve gender parity in tertiary education by 2015. All the other countries are unlikely to achieve the goal by 2015.

118. Literacy rates of the age group 15-24 years: an optimistic trend: Of the 30 countries, for which data are available, 24 have either already achieved gender parity in literacy, or have the potential to do so by 2015. The eight countries that had already reached the goal of gender parity in literacy for the 15-24 age-group by 2004 are: Botswana, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, and Swaziland. A few other countries are close to achieving the target are: Algeria, Burundi, Madagascar, Rwanda, Tunisia, Tanzania, and Zambia. Seven countries likely to reach the goal by 2015 are: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Malawi, Mauritania, the Sudan and Uganda. All the other countries for which data are not available are unlikely to reach this target.

119. Women's representation in national parliaments remains low but progress is underway: Of the 32 countries for which data are available for 1990 and 2005, the following 12 countries have more than doubled the percentage of seats held by women in national parliaments: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Rwanda, Swaziland, South Africa and Tunisia. Eight other countries have made very significant progress, these are: Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Malawi, Senegal, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia. The highest achievers are Rwanda, with 48.8 per cent almost reaching gender parity, Mozambique with 34.8 per cent, South Africa with 32.8 per cent and Seychelles with 29.4 per cent of women parliamentarians. Nineteen countries have the lowest levels of women's parliamentary seats (less than 10 per cent) in 2005. Gender inequalities in representation in national parliaments have widened in ten countries. Liberia elected the first-ever female Head of State in Africa. Women are increasingly appointed to head important ministries. In the Gambia and Zimbabwe, the Vice President is a woman. South Africa has a female Deputy President. The Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in Mozambique are women, Cape Verde has a female Minister for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, State Reform and National Defense, in Nigeria and Liberia, women are Ministers of Finance and in Nigeria and the Niger, women are also the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

120. Women's share in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector remains low: Women's economic empowerment is measured through their share in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector. None of the countries for which recent data are available has reached gender parity in wage employment (50 per cent). The best performers are Southern and Eastern Africa, followed by Central Africa, which has made the most significant progress between 1990 and 2004. West and North Africa have experienced setbacks with negative changes.

## **Health MDGS**

**Goal 4: Reduce child mortality**

**Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds under 5 mortality rates between 1990 and 2015**

**Goal 5: Improve maternal health**

**Target 6: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality rates between 1990 and 2015**

**Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

**Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS**

**Target 8: Have halted by 2015 and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases**

121. There has been limited progress on the health MDGs during the period under review. Most countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa are significantly off-track. However, disaggregated by country or subregion reveal some progress by country and region but the aggregate rate of progress is not sufficient to enable the region as a whole to meet the health MDGs.

122. North Africa had a very good initial condition on child and maternal mortality and is therefore on track to reach all the health-related MDGs. Twenty-one (21) Sub-Saharan countries (SSA) have made some remarkable progress in under-5 mortality (an improvement between 10-30 per cent or more), albeit starting from a high initial level. Thus progress has been made, but

still not enough to be on track. Under-5 mortality has fallen in 6 SSA countries by only between 0 to 10 per cent and risen in 11 others countries. Maternal mortality has remained in general very high in all subregions except for North Africa, although on this target are very scanty across the region. However, in 10 SSA countries starting from a high initial maternal mortality rate in 1990, by 2000 they had made significant progress, but still remaining off track. HIV prevalence rate has fallen in 18 SSA countries but has increased in 8 others. Southern Africa continues to have the highest prevalence rate. West Africa has higher malaria cases and related deaths. Tuberculosis incidence and mortality rates have increased in all sub-regions, except North Africa. Tuberculosis treatment through Directly Observed Treatment Strategy (DOTS) has increased from 36 per cent in 1990 to 47 per cent in 2004.

### **Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability**

**Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources**

**Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation**

**Target 11: By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers**

123. The region as a whole is lagging behind on this MDG. However, disaggregated by country show individual country improvements and/or retrogressions.

124. In SSA, land covered by forest decreased by 9 per cent between 1990 and 2005. The highest rate of deforestation was experienced in West Africa. However, four African countries increased forest area by more than 25 per cent and two SSA countries have kept a high percentage (85 per cent) of country area covered by forest. All subregions of the continent have increased their biodiversity-protected area coverage; however, more than 20 countries did not increase biodiversity-protected area. Energy efficiency has not significantly improved. Although Africa contributes very little to greenhouse gas emissions, the impact of climate change is crucial. SSA has reduced per capita carbon dioxide emissions during the period under review. Eleven SSA countries reduced this trend by 25 per cent, whilst 13 African countries increased emissions per capita by 50 per cent. The urban population living in slums in SSA has not shown any change, but there is perceptible progress in North Africa. There was an increase in the proportion of people with access to improved water supply from 49 to 56 per cent over the period under review. Starting from an initial high coverage rate, North Africa is on track to universal coverage.

125. West Africa has the lowest improved drinking water and sanitation coverage. In Nigeria only 48 per cent of the population have access to improved drinking water; in the Niger, only 46 per cent do. The rural-urban gap with respect to clean water is high; however Central Africa improved access to clean water in rural areas by over 70 per cent, starting from a low level of 27 per cent. Fifteen countries have increased rural access to improved water by 25 per cent, but access decreased by over 10 per cent in six countries. Progress in respect of sanitation coverage remains poor. Sub-Saharan Africa has seen a very modest increase in sanitation coverage from 32 per cent in 1990 to 37 per cent. At a subregional level, all the sub-regions made positive

progress in improving access to sanitation in rural and urban areas with the exception of Southern and Central Africa that experienced a decline in improved access to sanitation in urban areas. North Africa has the highest sanitation coverage in both urban and rural areas followed by Southern and West Africa. Sanitation coverage in Central and East Africa is still very low; more than half of the population in these regions do not have access to improved sanitation.

126. Urban areas have better water supply and this has resulted in a wider rural-urban sanitation gap. Burkina Faso, Liberia, the Niger have the largest urban – rural disparities in access to improved sanitation. But urban – rural disparities are large in Ethiopia (81 per cent urban and 11 per cent rural). However, Namibia and Malawi have exceeded their 2015 targets.

127. The loss of environmental assets in Africa in general, and SSA in particular is intimately linked to poverty. The use of biomass (wood fuel) as the only affordable fuel causes degradation of the environment, health hazards as indoor pollution increases. In addition, productive time spent by households in particular women and girls, is severely curtailed by fetching wood. Improved water and sanitation access particularly in rural areas remains a challenge. This has a spill-over effect on exacerbating water-borne diseases and a low health status.

### **C. Constraints to accelerating progress**

128. The MDGs continue to be a major policy and operational challenge in Africa. A number of these challenges as they relate to accelerating growth and development in the continent to achieve the goals are discussed in the Issues Paper of this Conference, remain the major challenge in respect of monitoring and tracking progress towards the goals. It is, however, most acute with respect to Target 1 of Goal 1 – Reduce by half the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. Assessing progress using the income metric has been difficult because of the lack of household survey. These surveys are expensive but the lack of these is accentuated by weak statistical capacity in member States. ECA and the “Friends of ECA” are working very hard to remedy the deficiency. A measure of success on this score will be the number of African countries that conduct a census during this 2010 round of housing and population census. Addressing the cross-cutting dimension of gender in all the MDGs, remains a challenge as gender equality concerns do not shape sectoral policies, and proper monitoring systems based on gender sensitive indicators and sex disaggregated are missing.

129. Sustaining progress and preventing volatility in the indicators of success will increasingly become a challenge. As the statistical data show, some countries that had achieved early success in some of the indicators are beginning to experience reversals. Thus scaling-up public investments must be very cognizant of the real and present danger of early reversals of success. Finance is a major constraint to scaling-up interventions. Budgetary allocations to priority social sectors continue to remain low.

130. National capacity to design and implement policies to achieve the MDGs, continues to be weak. There are two components of weakness: weak human capacity to run existing institutions, no matter how flawed, and weak institutions themselves. Institutions may be weak, controlling for human capacity weaknesses, due to the weakness of enabling instruments to set them up or the overall regulatory framework or due to interest group reactions and poor overall governance. These constraints need to be adequately addressed.

131. Finally, many of the targets are weak or imprecise. Take the education MDG (MDG 2) for example. The goal is to ensure that all children complete a full course of primary schooling. The emphasis is on increasing enrolment but there is nothing said about the quality of that education. However, mass enrolment has consequences for quality and completion rates of pupils and for the distribution of scarce resources among the three tiers of education – primary, secondary, and tertiary. In some countries where free school feeding has been introduced, completion rates have dropped off significantly as has quality because of high pupil-to-teacher ratios. In addition, because of the under-emphasis of secondary and higher education, a “bulge” is beginning to develop in some countries where expansion of the secondary and tertiary sectors has not kept pace with the expansion of the primary education sector.

#### **D. Conclusions and recommendations**

132. The world is on track to meet the MDGs. But Africa is not. Midway into implementing the MDGs agenda, valuable lessons have been learned. It is now known that economic growth alone will not be enough if countries are to meet the goals. Complementary policies such as social transfers, income redistribution, and the provision of facilitatory infrastructure and regional public goods are also necessary. It is also known that any effort to scale up many of the interventions will require the mobilization of additional resources and that it will take a combination of enhanced and improved domestic resource mobilization and increased ODA for this to be possible. The private sector also has a role to play in achieving the MDGs by paying their taxes regularly and on time and increasing the provision of education and essential health services.

133. Finally, it is known that political leadership and commitment are essential for success. It is the hope that this report will help sustain the commitment of African leadership to meeting the MDGs. The critical issue for most African countries is how can they become ‘high-achievers’ in meeting the MDGs? A number of goal-specific recommendations are set out in Table 1 below. There is no doubt that meeting the MDGs will require more resources from national budgets and official development assistance (ODA). The Monterrey Consensus provides a useful framework for scaling up resource mobilization to expand fiscal space to scale up interventions to meet the MDGs. The key action now is scaling up. Annex 1 summarizes goal-specific recommendations for actions.

134. During the period under review, ECA scaled up its activities to effectively support African countries in their development efforts. To buttress its support to member States and as part of its repositioning exercise, ECA created a new Section, the MDGs/Poverty Analysis Section in August 2006 within the African Centre for Gender and Social Development to serve as an anchor for the Commission’s work in this area. The Commission undertook a knowledge audit of PRSP practitioners to determine the depth and breadth of their knowledge on poverty reduction in order to better assist them bridge the gaps. Under the auspices of the Enhanced Knowledge Network Sharing Project, four electronic roundtables on various PRSP/MDG themes were organized. A community of practice on PRSP and MDGs has been established and an MDG mapping tool developed, to contribute to tracking and monitoring of progress towards the goals. The African Learning Group on PRSPs/MDGs (PRSP/MDG-LG) has facilitated capacity building and learning amongst member States. At the country level, ECA has also provided advisory services to Liberia, Ghana and Ethiopia to help policymakers design and implement MDG-based PRSPs.



### *Annex I: Goal-specific Recommendations to Meet the MDGs*

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Recommended Set of Actions for Accelerating Progress</i>
<p><b>Goal 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</b></p> <p><b>Target Assessed</b> <i>Target 2 – Halve between 1990-2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote and develop irrigation systems;</li> <li>▪ Provide other inputs such as fertilizers and weather information on a subsidized basis;</li> <li>▪ Improved funding for agricultural development;</li> <li>▪ Incorporate HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation in agricultural production and food relief efforts;</li> <li>▪ Improve marketing and transport infrastructure for food market integration;</li> <li>▪ Improve food security policies including strengthening of national strategic grain reserves, addressing land tenure and distribution problems;</li> <li>▪ Promote technologies that raise agricultural productivity and strengthen and build capacity;</li> <li>▪ Mitigate and remediate environmental degradation and minimize the effects of global warming.</li> <li>▪ Improve agricultural and food statistics;</li> <li>▪ Recognize that the most efficient way to achieve this goal is within the context of a country-owned MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper or MDG-based national development plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 2 - Achieve Universal Primary Education</b></p> <p><b>Target Assessed</b> <i>Target 3 - Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling</i></p>	<p>Interventions should aim not only at increasing the enrolment rates but also completion rates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the underlying reasons for high drop-out rates and tailor interventions to encourage children to remain at school. Abolition of school fees, free school transport (in urban areas especially), school feeding programmes, separate latrines for girls have proved to be successful in several African countries.</li> <li>▪ Train more teachers to ensure the quality of schooling by improving pupil-teacher-ratio.</li> <li>▪ Targeted programmes for socially excluded children such as AIDS orphans are needed in order to increase school enrolment and completion.</li> <li>▪ Improve the availability of schools in remote areas or improve transportation in order to improve enrolment in rural areas.</li> <li>▪ Improve access to and quality of secondary and tertiary education through scaling up of investment and private provision;</li> <li>▪ Use peer learning, especially for countries that seem to have <b>missed the boat</b>. Most of these countries started with poor initial conditions or are just emerging from conflict.</li> <li>▪ Improve education statistics.</li> <li>▪ Recognize that the most efficient way to achieve this goal is within the context of a country-owned MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper or MDG-based national development plan</li> </ul>

<p><b>Goal 3 - Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women</b></p> <p><b>Target assessed</b>  <i>Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Africa needs to take measures to improve women representation in parliament, as well as gender parity in literacy for the 15-24 years old, and women’s share of wage employment in the non-agricultural sector.</li> <li>• East, West and Central Africa need to intensify their efforts in all six gender related indicators.</li> <li>• Scale-up interventions known to increase enrolment and retention of girls in school like single-sex schools, separate latrines and urinals for girls in co-eds, special scholarships for girls, etc. Where boys’ enrolment is lower than girls’ enrolment, governments should scale-up interventions such as scholarships, free school feeding programmes,</li> <li>• Countries should address the social biases and negative attitudes towards girls’ education.</li> <li>• With regard to women’s representation in Parliament, all countries should enhance women’s opportunities to take part in the electoral process. Special efforts should be made to encourage women to seek elected office and to succeed in the elections.</li> <li>• Concerning gender differentials in wage employment, member States should encourage gender parity in recruitment through affirmative action in the hiring of civil servants.</li> </ul>
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<i>Goal</i>	<i>Recommended Set of Actions for Accelerating Progress</i>
<p><b>Cont. Goal 3</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the private sector with incentives to recruit more women</li> <li>• Ensure that women have equal access to high quality training.</li> <li>• Introduce measures to allow women to combine their reproductive role with paid employment.</li> <li>• Recognize that the most efficient way to achieve this goal is within the context of a country-owned MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper or MDG-based national development plan</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health MDGs:</b>  <b>Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality;</b>  <b>Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health</b>  <b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other Diseases</b></p> <p><b>Targets assessed</b>  <i>Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate;</i>  <i>Target 6: Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio</i>  <i>Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase budget allocations to 15 per cent of total expenditure as adopted in the Abuja Declaration on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria;</li> <li>• Scale-up interventions such as free immunizations, insecticide-treated bed-nets, ante-natal care services; hygiene and sanitation education that have been shown to work;</li> <li>• Increase in domestic resource mobilization including non-governmental provision of care.</li> <li>• Special tax incentives could be used to encourage private provision of essential public health interventions such as immunizations;</li> <li>• Reform, improve and strengthen health systems, including improving health infrastructure;</li> <li>• Harmonize and better coordinate the many “vertical” programmes in health to reduce transaction costs;</li> <li>• Promote strong stewardship and leadership for a multi-sectoral approach in providing health care ensuring that the wider social, cultural and economic barriers to health are addressed;</li> <li>• Improve capacity and retention of health workforce; urgently address the “brain drain” problem;</li> <li>• Improve health statistics;</li> <li>• Recognize that the most efficient way to achieve this goal is within the context of a country-owned MDG-based</li> </ul>



<i>HIV/AIDS</i>	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper or MDG-based national development plan.
<p><b>Goal 7 - Ensure Environmental Sustainability</b></p> <p><b>Targets assessed</b></p> <p><i>Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the loss of environmental resources</i></p> <p><i>Target 10: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase budget allocations to water and sanitation;</li> <li>• Scale-up “quick impact” interventions known to work – public water pumps;</li> <li>• Provide low-cost alternative energy sources – such as subsidized kerosene, coal briquettes - to alleviate deforestation and stem desert encroachment;</li> <li>• Provide public health education to improve sanitation;</li> <li>• Encourage water security through incentives.</li> <li>• Address policy and institutional weaknesses, for example public utilities regulatory agencies, technical know-how is imperative;</li> <li>• Improve statistics;</li> <li>• Recognize that the most efficient way to achieve this goal is within the context of a country-owned MDG-based Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper or MDG-based national development plan.</li> </ul>



