



Economic
Commission
for Africa



Economic Report on

Africa 2012

Unleashing Africa's Potential
as a Pole of Global Growth



Economic Commission for Africa



African Union



Africa Youth Report | 2011

Addressing the youth education and
employment nexus in the new global economy



Economic Commission for Africa

Annual Report 2012



Assessing Regional Integration in Africa

Towards a Continental Free Trade Area,
Customs Union and Common Market (AFRIA V)

Overview



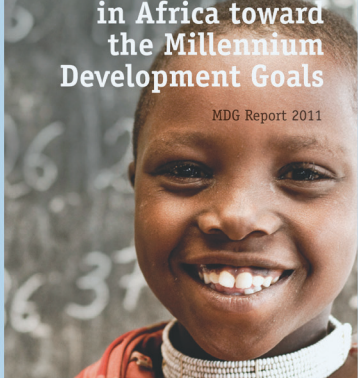
Minerals and Africa's Development

The International Study Group Report on
Africa's Mineral Regimes



Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals

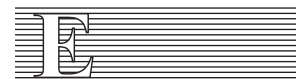
MDG Report 2011





UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Thirty-first meeting of the Committee of Experts



Distr.: GENERAL

E/ECA/COE/31/21
8 March 2012

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

**Meeting of the Committee of Experts of the 5th Joint Annual
Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy
and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of
Finance, Planning and Economic Development**

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
22 – 25 March 2012

Annual Report 2012

For this and other publications, please visit the ECA website at the following address:

www.uneca.org

or contact

Publications and Conference Management Section
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

P.O. Box 3001
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

Tel: +251-11-544-9900
Fax: +251-11-551-4416
Email: ecainfo@uneca.org.

Table of Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms	v
Introduction by the Executive Secretary	vii
I. Major Programme Activities and Achievements	1
II. Issues Arising from the Meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission, Including the Inter-governmental Committees of Experts.....	27
III. Programme Support.....	35

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACPC	African Climate Policy Centre
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFREF	African Geodetic Reference Frame
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APAI-CRVS	Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ATPC	African Trade Policy Centre
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEMAC	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
CEPGL	Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries
CODIST	Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems
EAC	East African Community
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ERA	Economic Report on Africa
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ICE	Intergovernmental Committee of Experts
ICGLR	International Conference on the Great Lakes Region
ICT	Information and communication technology
IDEP	African Institute for Economic Development and Planning
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IMTS	International Merchandise Trade Statistics
ISESCO	Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
LDCs	Least developed countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MRDE	Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in Africa
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NICI	National Information and Communication Infrastructure
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPM	Office of Strategic Planning and Programme Management
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century
PHC	Population and Housing Censuses
PPP	Public-private partnership
RBM	Results-based management
RCM-Africa	Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme
REC	Regional economic community
RPTC	Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SMEs	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SNA	System of National Accounts
SRCM	Subregional Coordination Mechanism
STI	Science, technology and innovation
TYCBP	Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme
UEMOA	West African Economic and Monetary Union
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
WTO	World Trade Organization



Abdoulie Jannet
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Secretary of the
Economic Commission for Africa

Introduction by the Executive Secretary

The year 2011 was one of contrasts for our continent. The continent withstood the worst effects of the global financial and economic crises, although growth recovery remains fragile and uneven. The year also had its share of crises, including uprising in some parts of the continent that led to changes in government and leadership in some countries, particularly in North Africa. However, the year also presented some opportunities. The Durban Conference of December 2011, for example, succeeded in re-establishing a promising future for international negotiations on climate change. This Annual Report documents the Commission's response to these trends and events in the context of its mandate of promoting the social and economic development of its member States across a broad range of substantive areas.

Throughout the year, ECA continued to support Africa's development agenda - an agenda that is reflected in the results of the past year's work and the work of ECA in general to address the immediate challenges affecting the region. The Commission's policy work and analyses proved vital to global and regional discussions on Africa's rapid recovery and sustaining economic dynamism following the global financial crisis of the last four years. The Commission played a crucial role in developing a coordinated position for Africa's least developed countries, identifying some of the critical challenges that they continue to face, which informed the African common position at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2011.

As the events of the so-called "Arab Spring" were unfolding in 2011, ECA was proactive in analyzing its impact on the social and economic situation of the continent. As the secretariat of the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa, an independent forum for dialogue on African development issues, ECA convened a meeting in November 2011 in Tunis to discuss issues related to the myriad experiences of democratic transitions in Africa since 1990, with a view to assessing what can be gleaned from this to help the continent's leaders and people scale up efforts to advance

the democratic agenda. ECA will continue to expand its work and provide direct technical assistance to all affected countries in tackling the pressing issues of the transition, including the challenges posed by forging a new social contract, the impact of conflict and political instability, unemployment, especially among the youth, food security, depletion of natural resources and climate change.

Apart from this introductory section, the report is divided into three main chapters. Chapter I provides an account of the major activities and accomplishments of the ECA secretariat under the ten substantive subprogrammes which make up the programme structure approved in the Strategic Framework for the 2010-2011 biennium. The subprogrammes address themes that are broadly consistent with the major development challenges confronting African countries, as follows: macroeconomic analysis, finance and economic development; food security and sustainable development; governance and public administration; information and science and technology for development; trade, economic cooperation and regional integration; gender and women in development; supporting subregional activities for development; development planning and administration; statistics; and social development. Other programmes include United Nations support to the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation and the United Nations Development Account.

The past year was full of accomplishments for the ECA secretariat. I would like to highlight just a few of these accomplishments which are presented at length throughout this annual report. Among the significant achievements of the year was the publication and launch of several flagship publications, including the *Economic Report on Africa (ERA)*, the report on *Assessing Regional Integration in Africa (ARIA)* and the *African Governance Report (AGR)*, the *Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness (MRDE) Report*, the *African Women's Report (AWR)*, the *Annual Progress Report on*

the MDGs and the *Africa Statistical Yearbook*. These reports have attained new heights of quality in their analyses and continue to have an impact on policy-making in the region. For example, the *2011 Economic Report on Africa*, which examined the role of the State in development, resulted in increased demand for ECA to help restore planning frameworks in several countries on the continent. In this regard, multidisciplinary needs assessment missions have been mounted to Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Guinea, the Niger, South Sudan, the Gambia, Togo, and Uganda. Similarly, the report on *Assessing Regional Integration in Africa*, jointly published with the African Union Commission (AUC) in 2011 on the low level of intra-Africa trade, led the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government to make this the theme of its January 2012 Summit.

Another important achievement was the continuation of the Joint AU and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, whose fourth edition took place during the year and whose resolutions continue to identify priority issues to be addressed by ECA, including most recently calling on it to establish a high-level panel on illicit financial flows. The panel was recently launched in Durban, South Africa, with former President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa as chair. The annual meetings of the Conference of Ministers have become a key forum for member States to discuss and build consensus on issues of common concern.

Another important achievement is in the area of natural resource development where ECA contributed to the formulation of the African Mining Vision, which was adopted by the AU Summit and is already building African capacities to implement related aspects of the Vision. We are also in the process of establishing the African Mineral Development Centre to be located at ECA headquarters in Addis Ababa. Crucially, the next edition of the African Development Forum to be held in October 2012 will address this important theme. In view of the link between natural resources management and sustainable development, emphasis was also placed on promoting the green economy in Africa in the context of sustainable development – a topic that resonated well with many African leaders at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Rio+20 organized jointly by ECA, AUC, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Environment Programme in October 2011.

At the subregional level, I would like to highlight the progress we have made in support of the major regional economic communities (RECs). All five ECA subregional offices recorded concrete achievements in

the implementation of the multi-year programme of cooperation with their corresponding RECs, addressing such issues as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), gender, governance, trade, regional integration, statistics, information and communications technology and science and technology. Some of the subregional offices have also established subregional coordination mechanisms, as mandated by the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa).

Partnerships remained a constant theme in our work throughout the year. The spirit of cooperation and partnership that underpins our work was further strengthened during the year as we continued to intensify our collaboration at the continental level with the AUC and AfDB on joint delivery of activities, including knowledge products, workshops and conferences. An important step taken in this direction was the establishment of a Joint AU/AfDB/ECA Secretariat Support Office which is hosted at ECA to give concrete expression to this desire and also as a home for harmonizing and coordinating joint activities.

In the past year, ECA continued to strengthen its cooperation with partners from the United Nations family in order to better “deliver as one” through the unique instrument of the RCM, established to coordinate United Nations support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme. One important element of the enhanced cooperation with other United Nations organizations is our continued work in the context of the strengthened and expanded RCM and its improved cluster system in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme. The RCM now includes the AUC, its NEPAD secretariat and the RECs as members. In its role as convenor of the RCM meetings, ECA brought together high-level representatives from United Nations organizations working in Africa, the AUC and RECs at the Twelfth Regional Coordination Mechanism meeting in November 2011, chaired by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and co-chaired by the Deputy Chairperson of the AUC. The meeting reviewed progress and challenges in the work of the RCM and its nine thematic clusters, including reviewing the United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Plan for the African Union, which will provide a framework for improving United Nations system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme.

Closely related is ECA work in support of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) on which we continue to be engaged as one of the strategic partners. In 2011, ECA continued to provide support and expertise to member States, the APRM secretariat and

other partners to strengthen this landmark process. Over 30 African countries have acceded to the APRM to date, with crucial support from ECA.

Efforts continued in the past year to strengthen organizational and management processes in the framework of results-based management and budgeting, with particular focus on measures taken to enhance programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, including quality assurance, improved service standards in human resource management and management of physical facilities and extrabudgetary resource mobilization and management. Chapter III of the report highlights major progress in these areas.

In the past two years, partnerships with non-African countries is another area whose results we are justifiably proud. These partnerships have resulted in extrabudgetary support to ECA to the tune of over US\$ 100 million. Also noteworthy in this regard is our achievement in mobilizing additional resources for the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), a major component of the ECA programme of work. Recent improvements in

the management and programme content of IDEP have led member States to resume paying their assessed contributions. The United Nations General Assembly also recently approved an increase in the grant provided to the Institute from US\$ 0.9 million in the 2010-2011 biennium to US\$ 2.6 million in 2012-2013.

I assure you that the Commission will continue to build on these important achievements as it accompanies its member States in its development journey in the years ahead. I am also confident that member States will continue to support our efforts in this regard.

Abdoulie Janneh

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Secretary of the Economic
Commission for Africa
March 2012

CHAPTER I

Major Programme Activities and Achievements

A. Macroeconomic analysis, finance and economic development

1. The activities carried out under this subprogramme during the past year were aimed at strengthening the capacity of member States to design and implement appropriate policies and programmes for achieving higher and sustained growth for poverty reduction, with particular emphasis on the following areas: macroeconomic analysis; finance, industry and investment; the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and monitoring of least developed countries (LDCs); and support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

2. The work of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in the area of macroeconomic analysis during the period under review has helped to focus attention on the role of the State and development planning frameworks as critical means for addressing Africa's development challenges. A major issues paper prepared for the joint African Union (AU) and ECA Conference of Ministers in March 2011, and the 2011 edition of the *Economic Report on Africa* (ERA 2011), provided policy and technical analyses that underpinned the discussion and policy dialogue on the crucial theme of "Governing development in Africa – the role of the State in economic transformation". ERA 2011 was well received, as evidenced by various media reports and invitations received by ECA to present the report at high-level meetings and discussion panels. In addition to its use by policymakers as a tool to monitor recent economic and social developments in Africa, the ERA has become useful in enhancing the awareness of policymakers about policies and strategies for addressing key development challenges in the continent.

3. The preparation of ERA 2012 was a major activity under this subprogramme during the year. The report examines the opportunities and challenges

involved in unleashing Africa's potential as a global growth pole, and will inform discussions at the Joint AU-ECA Conference of Ministers in March 2012 on the same theme. In addition, ECA contributed to other major publications during the year, including the 2011 edition of the *African Economic Outlook*, jointly prepared by the African Development Bank (AfDB), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assess economic performance of African countries; and the 2011 edition of the *World Economic Situation and Prospects*, jointly prepared by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the regional economic commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to monitor recent economic developments in the global economy and provide medium-term forecasts to underpin discussion and policy dialogue within the United Nations and other international economic bodies.

4. A capacity-building workshop organized during the year contributed to improving the technical skills of policymakers and experts from ministries of finance and development planning, central banks, research institutes and regional economic communities (RECs) through macroeconomic modelling that could easily be tailored to individual African countries along with country case studies and a manual on tools to integrate macroeconomic and sectoral policies in national development strategies. The feedback from workshop participants indicated that the workshop had achieved its objective.

5. Activities under the MDGs and LDCs cluster continued to complement the work on macroeconomic analysis with the aim of transforming economic growth into poverty reduction and achieving the internationally-agreed development goals, including the MDGs. A major achievement in this area was the articulation of an African outcome document on LDCs that emerged from the African regional review organized in preparation for the

Fourth United Nations Conference on the LDCs which was held in Istanbul in May 2011. The outcome document was endorsed by the Joint AU-ECA Conference of Ministers and fed into the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2011-2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action). In the same context, ECA presented the LDC Monitor, an innovative geo-spatial analytical tool that visually demonstrates progress towards the goals of the Programme of Action for LDCs at the national and subnational levels. The presentation was well received and has led to demand for technical assistance from ECA member States for capacity-building in this area. Another key accomplishment during the year was the preparation of the 2011 Africa MDG Report, a joint endeavour of ECA, the AU Commission (AUC), AfDB and UNDP, which assesses progress and challenges in working towards the MDGs in Africa, and provides policy recommendations for scaling up progress in key areas. The 2011 report notes that progress has been in the right direction, although at too slow a pace to ensure that all the goals will be reached by 2015.

6. To assist in accelerating progress towards the MDGs, ECA provided assistance to member States in capacity-building on MDG-consistent planning. Participants from national planning agencies in over 30 countries benefited from training workshops during the year. In addition, a bilingual (English and French) manual was prepared and disseminated to support MDG-based planning in several member States.

7. With less than three years to go to the target date of 2015, ECA, the AU and AfDB have embarked on an initiative of contributing to the articulation of an African position on the development agenda beyond 2015. A meeting was held in Accra, Ghana, to identify Africa's priorities, and build consensus and partnership for national level consultations, on that agenda. A consensus statement was adopted that reflects a common regional position and will inform the global debate on the development agenda beyond 2015.

8. ECA continued to work closely with other regional development institutions such as AU and AfDB as well as UNDP to coordinate and build consensus on the challenges of financing Africa's development. A forum on financing for development that took place in May 2011 generated broad and in-depth discussions of the opportunities and challenges involved in mobilizing resources for development against the background of globalization, with a special session hosted specifically on South-South cooperation. The forum adopted an outcome document representing an African common position on issues related to financing for development for

the World Summit in Busan, Republic of Korea, in November 2011 and the fifth High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development held in New York in December 2011. The sixth African Economic Conference, organized in October 2011 jointly with AfDB and UNDP, also provided a platform for experts on Africa to reflect and dialogue on new directions for growth policy on the continent in order to determine the best approaches to attain the MDGs, achieve the objectives of NEPAD and accelerate Africa's sustainable development. This multi-stakeholder conference brought together over 300 African experts and policymakers and received wide media coverage. In addition, in collaboration with OECD, ECA continued its engagement in the Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in Africa. This review highlights progress towards the delivery of commitments undertaken by both Africa and its development partners in the key areas of financing for development of Africa.

B. Food security and sustainable development

9. Under this subprogramme, ECA implemented a number of activities in accordance with the objective of enhancing capacity and engagement at the subregional and regional levels to develop and implement appropriate policies, strategies and programmes for achieving food security and sustainable development. Some of the major activities and achievements are described below.

10. In pursuance of its role of providing evidence-based analysis on food security to policy makers in Africa, ECA prepared a report entitled "Food security in Africa: key challenges, opportunities and policy options" which reviewed the current policy options for food security in Africa within the context of the recent structural changes in the global food market and developed concrete recommendations that will inform the formulation of future food security policies in Africa. The report is aimed at enhancing the capacity of African countries to respond to the emerging challenges and opportunities of the recent food crisis as well as other anticipated shocks. The report drew on the findings of five subregional assessment studies commissioned by ECA as well as inputs provided by an Expert Group Meeting held in July 2011.

11. In close collaboration with the AUC, a draft bio-energy policy framework and guidelines for Africa has been developed. The policy framework is designed to serve as a technical tool for promoting the sustainable development of bioenergy within the framework of NEPAD and global conventions on bioenergy. It was

discussed and reviewed by a group of 33 high-level policymakers and experts representing a broad range of institutions, organizations and United Nations agencies.

12. Several activities were undertaken during the year to further advance the implementation of the Land Policy Initiative, a joint undertaking of the AUC, ECA and AfDB which was launched in December 2009 to support land policy reforms and management in Africa. As a follow-up to the initiative, and to facilitate the implementation of the AU Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa, ECA presented the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa at the AU Conference of Ministers of Agriculture in Lilongwe, Malawi, with over 500 senior officials, including ministers, in attendance. A panel discussion on foreign investment in land, organized as part of the conference, drew attention to the need for effective management of investment in land in Africa. More than 500 copies of the Declaration and the Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa developed by ECA were distributed at the meeting to enhance knowledge of and capacity for land policy development in member States and RECs.

13. In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also referred to as “Rio+20”, scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, ECA, the AUC, AfDB, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNDP organized a workshop on institutional and strategic frameworks for sustainable development in March 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The workshop was attended by more than 90 policymakers and experts from economic, social, and environment ministries and agencies in ECA member States, and from the AUC, AfDB and the RECs. They examined institutions, policies and strategies for sustainable development at the regional, subregional and national levels, taking into account the extent to which such institutions incorporate key requirements of sustainable development, including balanced and integrated development, and intragenerational and intergenerational equity. The workshop discussed and adopted recommendations on concrete actions and partnerships needed to help RECs and member States to implement their sustainable development priorities, including the outcomes of Rio+20. It also agreed on steps to ensure effective regional preparations for the Conference. The recommendations of the workshop served as an input to the Africa report on institutional frameworks for sustainable development prepared under the leadership of ECA within the context of the African preparatory process.

14. In the area of sustainable development, ECA, the AUC, AfDB, UNEP and UNDP organized a Workshop on a Sustainable Development Indicator Framework for Africa. The workshop reviewed the proposed framework and compendium of indicators, taking into account the need for a well-framed and robust analysis of Africa’s priorities and specificities. The workshop was attended by over 100 policymakers and experts from national statistical offices as well as ministries of planning, finance, economic development, social affairs and environment. It adopted the proposed framework and enriched the suggested compendium of indicators for use in the Sustainable Development Report on Africa. It also adopted action-oriented recommendations for the effective use and further improvement of the indicators. The workshop underscored the need for harmonized approaches and capacity-building at the national and subregional levels.

15. A significant development under this subprogramme in 2011 was the organization of the regional preparatory process for the Rio+20 conference. A regional preparatory meeting for Rio+20, which was organized jointly with the AUC, UNEP, UNDP and AfDB as part of the seventh session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development, was attended by over 700 participants, including the President of the Republic of the Congo, several environment ministers, experts and representatives of several international and regional organizations. The meeting resulted in the adoption of an “African Consensus Statement to Rio+20” which addressed a wide range of sustainable development topics of relevance to Africa, including the need to reinforce and integrate the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development; the green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction; and the institutional framework for sustainable development.

16. In the area of climate change and development, the involvement of ECA in several events related to sustainable development and climate change has facilitated the forging of various strategic alliances and partnerships with several institutions such as the Africa Carbon Credit Exchange, the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development, the African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change, the Climate and Development Knowledge Network and the Global Climate Adaptation Partnership.

C. Governance and public administration

17. During the period under review, ECA continued to support and promote peaceful and democratic political transitions through its *African Governance Report*. The thematic focus of the current report is "Elections and the management of diversity". ECA commissioned national research institutions, independent from governments, to deliver various specific products, namely an expert opinion survey, a focus group discussion, country reports and country profiles. Data from the survey, the discussion and the country reports, produced with technical support from ECA, will be incorporated in a continent-wide report to be issued early in 2012.

18. The Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in Africa (MRDE) has emerged as an important mechanism for ensuring mutual accountability on the part of African countries and development partners. The United Nations General Assembly has recognized the Review as a principal mechanism for monitoring commitments in Africa. The NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development have endorsed the MRDE process as the main mutual accountability mechanism for monitoring and assessing commitments. The full 2011 MRDE report was launched on 30 November 2011 during the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, in Busan, Republic of Korea. The relevance of the MRDE report was further evidenced in the recent invitation extended by WTO officials to ECA and OECD to consider showcasing the 2011 MRDE Report at the WTO headquarters in Geneva in February 2012.

19. To support the move towards efficiency and effectiveness in the effort to increase resources mobilization, ECA completed and published in 2011 a report on "Public financial management with a view to improving domestic resource mobilization". It examined the various policy-related conceptual frameworks and methods used in public financial management and resource mobilization, and provided detailed analysis of public financial management practices and lessons learned.

20. Within the framework of collaboration with the AUC, assistance has been provided in supporting national anti-corruption institutions in Africa through the AU Advisory Board on Corruption. In collaboration with AU, the Division prepared a Regional Anti-corruption Programme for Africa covering the period

2011-2016. The programme was approved by the Board in October 2011, and is now in the process of implementation by both institutions. It is an initiative aimed at scaling up the fight against corruption on the continent. ECA is providing the Board with technical support in carrying out its activities and preparing its progress report on anti-corruption efforts in Africa to the AU Executive Council and also the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in July 2012. Furthermore, it is assisting the countries of the Central African subregion to establish a network of national anti-corruption institutions. ECA is also providing assistance in the establishment of an African Association of National Anti-Corruption Institutions.

21. The AUC and ECA have forged a strong partnership in their governance activities. ECA helped the AUC Department of Political Affairs to develop African governance architecture and a Human Rights Strategy for Africa. The two organizations jointly produce the *African Governance Newsletter*, two issues of which have already been produced.

22. As far as efforts to strengthen the capacity of public service institutions are concerned, the Division continues to assist the AUC in the implementation of decisions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Public Service, particularly in relation to the adoption of the Public Service Charter in January 2011 and the provision of policy-based knowledge and technical advisory services on improving public service performance, especially in post-conflict countries. The Division conducted a study on "Strengthening the capacity of the public service in post-conflict countries" in 2011, which covers experience in Burundi, Liberia and Rwanda, and offered technical advisory services on governance and public-sector reforms to Liberia and Sierra Leone.

23. During the period under review, ECA continued to support African countries at various stages of the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). As a strategic partner in the process, ECA undertook a number of missions to support countries for accession to the process or to review the performance of those countries that had already acceded. To those ends, several missions were undertaken to Djibouti, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Zambia. With the APRM Forum review of Sierra Leone and Zambia in January 2012, the number of countries that have completed the process and have been formally reviewed has reached 16. Through the APRM sensitization workshops held in Dakar, Senegal, in May 2011, Libreville, Gabon, in June 2011 and Djibouti, participants from different countries have gained an in-depth understanding of the APRM

process, enabling them to contribute effectively to APRM activities in their countries. As a result, Djibouti and Gabon have put their national structures in place, while Senegal has established a joint task force comprising civil society representatives and parliamentarians to facilitate the launch of the APRM in their country.

24. ECA prepared and disseminated the outcome of a study on simplified guidelines for integrating and harmonizing national programmes of action for the APRM, existing national development programmes and the medium-term expenditure framework. A series of mobile training workshops on this topic was launched in Mauritius in March 2012 to provide participants with information about best practices and procedures that could form the core process for harmonizing national programmes of action with existing national plans within the context of a common medium-term expenditure framework. It will be rolled out to Lesotho, Mozambique and Zambia in the course of 2012.

25. A technical publication entitled “Assessment of the impact and effectiveness of civil-society organizations and non-governmental organizations in promoting governance in Africa” has been prepared. It examines the roles and functions of such organizations in social and economic development as well as in the promotion of good governance. The Division held an Expert Group Meeting in March 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to review and discuss the draft of this publication. Changes in the political situation, both in Africa and internationally, and emphasis on the integration and harmonization of donor support are redefining the content and landscape of governance and development effectiveness.

26. In line with a series of planned activities to promote private sector development in Africa, the Division carried out several activities in the areas of public-private partnerships (PPPs), private sector participation in regional integration, and investment promotion. A high-level workshop on the theme “Public-Private Partnerships’ implementation in the Energy Sector in Africa: Challenges, Best Practices and New Trends” was organized in July 2011 in partnership with the Korean Energy Economics Institute, AfDB, the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank. The key outcomes of the workshop included the identification of ways to address the major binding constraints at the country level, including measures for realizing bankable PPP projects in the energy sector. Accomplishments at the regional level were twofold: addressing PPP implementation at the

regional level (with a view to improving regional integration) and the establishment of a working group to facilitate the creation of a coalition of key stakeholders involved in PPPs in Africa.

27. The first meeting of the Working Group for the Promotion of PPPs in Africa took place in Pretoria, South Africa, in December 2011. It was attended by PPP managers and experts from institutions such as AfDB, the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa, the International Finance Corporation, the Southern African Power Pool and the World Bank. The Working Group has developed a plan of action for future joint work on PPPs in Africa, including a policy framework, knowledge products (including a PPP database) and a regional platform in the areas of new and renewable energy and the green economy.

28. In support of the United Nations initiative on climate change, helping NEPAD to encourage private sector participation and investment and promoting interest in green economy among African countries, the Division is preparing a comprehensive study on “Building PPPs to scale up resources for climate-friendly investment”.

29. In partnership with UNCTAD, ECA organized a training workshop in November 2011 to address key issues involved in the development and establishment of networks of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) under the title “Capacity-building to support the development of SMEs: SME networks and business linkages in Africa”. Participants included African and international development partners, SMEs and practitioners of business linkages from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the East African Community (EAC) and beyond. The workshop was valuable for the sharing of best practices, experience and lessons learned. As a follow-up to the workshop, ECA successfully established SME task teams in South Africa and Uganda to undertake field projects. In collaboration with the task teams, ECA initiated a field project in South Africa and Uganda in December 2011 that undertook an initial scoping of SME priority needs and agreement on the development of a work programme by bringing together major stakeholders for SME development including the South African Ministry of Trade and Industry, the South African Small Enterprise Development Agency, and representative institutions and organizations in the field of SME networks and business linkages in South Africa. This field project led to the successful establishment of a coordination mechanism for the development of SMEs that enables the Government of South Africa and relevant stakeholders to adopt a holistic approach and pursue concerted efforts for

capacity-building in SMEs, avoiding piecemeal work programmes. This mechanism will play a critical role not only in addressing major constraints that SMEs face at the country level but also in launching intra-African business linkages at the subregional level.

D. Information and science and technology for development

30. The work of ECA under this subprogramme focused on improving the capacity of African countries to formulate, implement and evaluate national and sectoral policies relating to information and communication technology (ICT) and science, technology and innovation (STI), geoinformation strategies for development and library and information management services.

31. Regarding policy and strategy development, ECA provided support to Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria and Rwanda, thereby increasing the number of countries that have developed national as well as sectoral ICT plans and strategies. Moreover, at the subregional level, progress was made in harmonizing national ICT policies and plans and in creating subregional frameworks that support regional economic integration. In this context, in the Central African subregion support was provided for the harmonization of the legal framework for cybersecurity, as a result of which a regional draft convention on cyberlegislation was developed. ECA also undertook a study in Cameroon, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Morocco and Mozambique, to take stock of the current situation in ICT policy development and implementation, which helped identify priority areas in these countries regarding ICT.

32. During the period under review, through the Scan-ICT programme for evaluation and monitoring of the ICT sector and its impact on the information society, ECA has focused on building the capacity of national statistical offices and assessing the process of ICT policy development and implementation in the continent. Capacity-building involved 17 French-speaking African countries and focused on collecting, analysing and disseminating ICT statistics. This was done through training courses organized in collaboration with the International Telecommunications Union and UNCTAD in the framework of the International Partnership for Measuring ICT for Development. The programme also led to the development of a framework for a set of globally-comparable e-government core indicators, in line with the recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society and the United Nations Statistical Commis-

sion. Support was also provided to Nigeria to enable it to launch its version of the Scan-ICT programme.

33. At their request, ECA helped Ghana and Rwanda to transform some of their existing tele-centres in to tele-innovation centres. Similarly, with support from the United Kingdom Department for International Development, ECA has embarked on an initiative for the facilitation of e-commerce through tele-innovation centres in Ethiopia and the Gambia, which is aimed at improving access to markets for SMEs. The African e-Learning Initiative was also launched during the reporting period as an extension of the on-site capacity-building activity of ECA. ECA is supporting the design and implementation of a flagship capacity-building programme, African Leadership in ICT, which is funded by the Government of Finland and implemented by the Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative. ECA also undertook a review of geoinformation governance in Africa, which served as an input for the Africa Preparatory Meeting for the Global Geospatial Information Management Initiative. ECA also assisted the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development of Ghana in the development of the country's national policy framework for property addressing systems.

34. In utilizing geoinformation technologies for development, ECA is providing support for more frequent updating of African spatial data infrastructure. New features are also being added to the different regional databases, including a transport infrastructure database, a Second Administrative Level Boundaries data set and a Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. ECA has also continued to work with partners to implement the African Geodetic Reference Frame (AFREF) programme, for example by organizing an expert group meeting to gauge the level of interest of African geodesists in participating in the processing of AFREF data. ECA and the United Kingdom Ordnance Survey are finalizing the logistical details for the roll out of the 30 reference stations which have been donated to the AFREF programme, after refurbishing and servicing in the United Kingdom they will be shipped and deployed across the continent. Moreover, ECA has assisted in the establishment of the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development project and the design of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security programme.

35. In collaboration with the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response, ECA organized a regional workshop entitled "Building upon regional space-based solutions for disaster management and

emergency response for Africa” to support access to and use of space-based technologies in Africa for disaster risk management and issues related to climate change and health. Moreover, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Mapping Agency and the Geographic Information Systems Society of Ethiopia, ECA organized the eighth Conference of the African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment.

36. ECA also continued to offer policy advice and technical assistance on new and emerging STI trends. In this regard, a regional innovation policy framework and assessment tools were developed, with countries such as Ghana, Kenya and Zambia testing them “on the ground” and countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, the Gambia, the Niger, Mali and Togo benefiting from them. ECA also developed the African Innovation Framework as a coherent analytical tool that policymakers can use to formulate and develop their innovation policies. ECA is working with Benin and Mali in developing their national STI policies, and has received requests along the same lines from Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, the Gambia, the Niger and Togo. Furthermore, ECA is supporting the development of STI policy for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Emphasis and attention also continued to be given to the mainstreaming of gender in STI activities: a report was issued following a research study on the status of gender mainstreaming in STI in EAC.

37. In the area of R&D and technology, ECA developed policy tools to assess the comprehensiveness of the national innovation system and the R&D and technology transfer performance at the national level. The tools have been tested in Ghana, Kenya and Zambia, and a technical advisory mission was undertaken to the United Republic of Tanzania. ECA also continued to implement the African Science to Business Challenge initiative. In 2011, a prestigious Innovation Prize for Africa was launched in collaboration with the Switzerland-based African Innovation Foundation. Efforts also continued to refine the Access to Scientific Knowledge in Africa initiative to create a one-stop shop for information sharing. Cooperation arrangements are also being developed with similar networks.

38. In order to promote networking, sharing of information and research collaboration in Africa, ECA launched a number of STI networks which include the African Technology Development and Transfer Network, the African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation, the East African Network of Research Excellence and Observatory and the African Research Network.

39. In 2011, in collaboration with the Laboratory for Engineering Education and Development at Boston University, and with financial support from the Republic of Korea, ECA launched a biomedical engineering innovation platform to promote improved health-care outcomes in Africa. A curriculum has been developed and adopted to guide the development of biomedical engineering programmes and departments in participating universities. Currently, five universities in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia are participating and requests have been received from four more.

40. The African Network for Drugs and Diagnostics Innovation builds on research and the productive capacity available on the continent to drive biomedical innovations to meet Africa’s public health needs. In 2011, an annual meeting of stakeholders was attended by more than 400 participants, with interactive panel discussions focusing on partnerships, financing and local pharmaceutical manufacturing. Through the African Research Network, ECA supported research and innovation programmes in Cameroon, Ethiopia and Tunisia, focusing on local languages, mobile applications in health-care services and the development of indicators to assess the impact of ICT on development. ECA also launched an African Inter-Parliamentary Forum on STI and a Network of ECOWAS Science Journalists.

41. In the area of library and information management services, member States were assisted with capacity-building and resource development, as were other clients throughout the region. In the area of capacity-building, the Division joined UNDP in providing background research and consultation to support the development of basic library checklists for the libraries involved in the UNDP Democratic Institutions Programme. Finally, the ECA Institutional Repository was officially launched at a workshop on open-access publishing organized during the second session of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology. It provides visitors with knowledge and information not available elsewhere through flagship publications, journal articles, conference proceedings and working papers as well as technical, mission and annual reports which have been collected over the past 50 years. The publications are freely available to users worldwide. Committee delegates also endorsed the re-establishment of the Subcommittee on Knowledge, Libraries and Information Services for Development, whose members will propose regional and subregional policy directions in the field of knowledge, libraries and information services and assist member States to identify national objec-

tives and evaluate progress made at the national level in the field of libraries and information services.

E. Regional integration, infrastructure and trade

42. The work of ECA under this subprogramme focuses on strengthening the process of regional integration in Africa through enhanced intra-African trade, external trade and physical integration, with emphasis on infrastructure and natural resources development in line with the vision of the African Union.

43. ECA organized a high-level symposium in Addis Ababa in April 2011 which brought together representatives of civil society to discuss their role in deepening regional integration, with ECA serving as a platform for engagement with governments. In May and June 2011, in Addis Ababa, ECA also held an Expert Group Meeting on the establishment of a free-trade area within each REC or subregion. The experts looked at the potential impact of free-trade agreements on African economies, the benefits and costs and the legal and political implications. In June 2011 the Committee on Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration held its seventh session in Addis Ababa. It examined ways of fast-tracking a continental free-trade area and accelerating the process towards a continental customs union and an African common market, with a view to enhancing prospects for intra-African trade. ECA also presented an issues paper on “Boosting intra-African trade” as a basis for discussion among ministers and high-level officials during the seventh session of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade, held in Accra in November 2011.

44. ECA continued to produce one of its flagship reports, *Assessing Regional Integration in Africa*, a leading publication on regional integration prepared jointly with the AUC and AfDB. The fourth edition of the report, which focused on efforts to boost intra-African trade, was cited in an article in the *Financial Times* in June 2010 and by the end of 2011 there had been 1,228 visits to the report website (<http://www.uneca.org/aria4/>). Financial assistance was also provided for the production and dissemination of the fifth report, entitled “Towards an African common market”, which was launched during the AU Summit in January 2012. A short documentary on intra-African trade is currently in production, focused on the recommendations made in the fifth report.

45. The work of ECA on intra-African trade in 2011 contributed meaningfully to regional integration as

envisioned in the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. ECA also influenced the African Ministers of Trade to fast-track the establishment of an African continental free-trade area with a clear road map and framework for implementation. ECA has also contributed to deepening integration in East Africa, with the five member States of EAC (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania) establishing a common market as of 1 July 2010. Finally, the contribution of ECA to negotiation of the Tripartite Agreement between the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), EAC and SADC is enabling 26 member States to enhance regional integration significantly in Africa.

46. ECA supported the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision adopted by the AU Heads of State and Government in February 2009. Specific activities undertaken included a training workshop in mineral policy and mining contract negotiations in Dakar, Senegal, which trained 25 participants from 23 mining countries in policy design based on the Africa Mining Vision. It also provided coursework in the design of fiscal provisions for the mineral sector and on key aspects of contract negotiations. ECA also completed the report of the International Study Group on Africa’s Mineral Regimes. The Group, composed of 15 eminent international practitioners in the field of minerals, was established by ECA to explore how Africa’s mineral regimes might better support its broader social and economic development. To this end, ECA compiled an action plan, based on the International Study Group’s report and the Africa Mining Vision, which outlines critical actions that the continent needs to implement in order to integrate mining in broad development activities.

47. ECA also supported the second Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development, under the theme “Building a sustainable future for Africa’s extractive industry - from vision to action”. The Conference, which was attended by 200 participants from 25 African countries as well as the World Bank and AfDB, reviewed and approved the Action Plan and launched the Study Group’s final report. The Conference adopted the Addis Ababa Declaration on Building a Sustainable Future for Africa’s Extractive Industry – From Vision to Action, and approved the establishment of an African Mineral Development Centre to provide technical and policy support for implementing the Africa Mining Vision. It mounted a highly successful communication and dissemination campaign through a dedicated website (www.africaminingvision.org), as well as news articles about the Vision in such publications as *Africa Busi-*

ness, *Jeune Afrique* and *Mining Journal*. The website has had 2,604 visits since it was launched.

48. Together with the AUC Department of Infrastructure and Energy, ECA in Addis Ababa in November 2011, organized an Expert Group Meeting to validate two reports on bioenergy policy and technology options in Africa. The specific aims of the meeting were to discuss, enrich and review the key findings of the two reports and to formulate recommendations for policy options and instruments, including regional cooperation interventions and frameworks for promoting the sustainable development of bioenergy in Africa. The participants decided to start a process of developing an African bioenergy policy framework and guidelines, which will be presented to the African Ministers of Energy in 2012.

49. An ad hoc Expert Group Meeting reviewed and validated the findings of a study on the Trans-African Highway Network, together with a proposed Draft Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-African Highway Network for adoption by member States. This Agreement will harmonize road infrastructure norms and standards for 54 African countries, thus facilitating intra-African trade. A conference on road safety adopted a plan of action for Africa which will harmonize activities during the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020.

50. In 2011 ECA continued to enhance the capacities of African countries to participate effectively in multilateral trade negotiations, the Aid for Trade initiative and opportunities under the United States African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Following the adoption of the Declaration on a Strategic Framework for Strengthening US/Africa Trade Relations 2010 and Beyond at the sixth session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Trade in Kigali, Rwanda, in November 2010, ECA and the AUC conducted a survey of 104 respondents in more than half of the countries which had benefited from the Act concerning their experiences and expectations. The survey results were presented in a report to inform the AGOA Mid-term Review which was organized by the Government of Zambia in collaboration with the AUC, AfDB and the ECA African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) in Lusaka in May 2011. Thanks to this contribution, the ministers and senior officials at the Mid-term Review adopted a communiqué on the way forward to the June 2011 tenth AGOA Ministerial Forum, which served as a basis for discussion with United States counterparts for an enhanced AGOA beyond 2015.

51. Subsequently, ATPC helped African countries to participate in the Forum and discuss the theme of “Enhanced trade through increased competitiveness, value addition and deeper regional integration”. For the third Global Review of the Aid for Trade Initiative held in July 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland, ECA prepared, in collaboration with AfDB, OECD and WTO, a study entitled “African case stories: a snapshot of Aid for Trade on the ground in Africa”.

52. In collaboration with the Centre for Global Trade Analysis at Purdue University in the United States, ECA organized a one-week African Short Course on Global Trade Analysis in April 2011 in Addis Ababa, targeting African scholars and researchers sponsored by ATPC in collaboration with the World Bank. The participants attended practical sessions on using general equilibrium models to assess how full or partial trade liberalization under regional trade agreements may impact on aspects such as welfare, poverty and employment.

53. As part of its ongoing support to the African Alliance for e-Commerce, ATPC sponsored the International Single Window Conference which was held in Dakar, Senegal, in June 2011. The meeting provided an appropriate framework to review the different stages of single window implementation, share experience and look into the future of paperless trade. ATPC also organized the first Africa Trade Forum, held in November 2011 in Addis Ababa. This Forum brought together more than 400 participants from all key trade constituencies in Africa and from around the world to exchange views on all the key issues relating to intra-African trade and Africa's trade with the rest of the world. The outcome of the debate and discussion on intra-African trade was fed into the seventh ordinary session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Trade.

54. The interventions of ECA were critical to wide participation in and ownership of the Aid for Trade Initiative, and in particular its third Global Review. ECA also helped member States and RECs to craft 49 Aid for Trade case stories for English-speaking and French-speaking countries.

F. Gender and women in development

55. The main objective of the subprogramme during the review period was to support and strengthen the capacity of member States to address gender equality and women's advancement concerns, by taking action towards achieving the internationally-agreed goals,

including the MDGs, through coordinated action with AU, AfDB, RECs and other United Nations agencies.

56. To achieve this objective, ECA strengthened outreach in order to engage more with member States so as to deepen their involvement in programme work. At its seventh session, held in May 2011, the Committee on Women and Development reviewed the work undertaken by the secretariat and considered how national machinery on gender could effectively use the tools and products available. The Committee reviewed a report on “Recent trends in national mechanisms for gender equality in Africa”; a report entitled “Status of gender inequality in social and economic and political sectors: implications for the implementation and monitoring of relevant international and regional commitments and social protection”; the activities of the African Women’s Rights Observatory; the “E-network of National Gender Mechanisms and Mechanisms in Africa”; the interregional project on “Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women”; and the 2010 *Compendium of Emerging Good Practices in Gender Mainstreaming*, focusing on gender, conflict and peace.

57. The Committee also approved a “Follow-up Strategy for implementation of the Outcome and Way Forward of the Decade Review of the Beijing Platform for Action and of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa”, and made the following recommendations for consideration by the Joint AU-ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development: first, the Chairperson of the Committee should be present at the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; second, each member of the Bureau should attend statutory meetings in his or her subregion to ensure that gender and development issues are addressed effectively at subregional level.

58. The subprogramme also strengthened its work in government departments beyond the national machineries by working with National Statistical Bureaus on gender statistics in partnership with the ECA African Centre for Statistics. In the production of the *African Women’s Report*, the subprogramme worked with ministries of finance and economic planning through questionnaires designed to determine the nature and level of financing for gender equality; the experts asked to review the draft report were drawn from these ministries.

59. Work to build knowledge of sector-specific gender issues in Africa was undertaken in order to effectively support member States in mainstreaming

gender in sectoral programmes. Research and studies were undertaken on the following topics: the gender dimensions of food security and climate change; the status of gender inequality in the social, economic and political sector; women’s land rights in Africa; and an overview of the prevalence and nature of violence against women, including a review of strategies to enhance national data collection capacities in this area. It is hoped this will have a positive impact in strengthening member States’ role and actions in achieving gender equality.

60. During the reporting period, ECA completed a time use survey, in partnership with the Ghana Statistical Office, as part of work on a gender-aware macroeconomic model. The secretariat subsequently produced a study entitled “Gender-sensitive policies: simulations from the gender-aware macroeconomic model”. This study serves two main purposes. Firstly, it discusses how the production of the household sector is accounted for in official national accounts, and the limitations of such treatment. Secondly, it presents a framework for comprehensive accounting of household production by constructing household production satellite accounts. Such a framework can be applied in practice by using the data from the Ghana time-use survey to prepare a household production satellite account for Ghana.

61. As part of the capacity-building programme, and in line with the recommendation from the forty-first session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2010 on the formulation of a regional strategy on gender statistics, ECA organized a series of meetings on gender statistics in Accra, Ghana, in December 2011. The major outcomes of these meetings included the following: improved understanding of the conceptual and methodological approaches involved in satellite accounts, their feasibility in the African context, and their importance in evidence-based development policy and programmes formulation; improved understanding of the module for collecting data on violence against women; and development of an Africa Programme on Gender Statistics, which was endorsed by the Statistical Commission for Africa at its third meeting which was held in Cape Town, South Africa, in January 2012. The Programme identifies a clear set of strategies and proposes a five-year action plan for the period 2012-2016.

62. As part of the Secretary General’s campaign *UNiTE to End Violence against Women*, ECA, in collaboration with other United Nations regional commissions and agencies, initiated a project on “Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge com-

munities". The project included strengthening the capacity of countries to measure violence against women regularly and appropriately in order to obtain a baseline and up-to-date analysis from which to respond to the issues, as well as to monitor and evaluate the effect of policies, legislation, plans and programmes in this area. With this objective in mind, a Regional Workshop on Enhancing the Capacity of African Countries to Eradicate Violence Against Women was organized in Addis Ababa in October 2011. The workshop looked at the nature, prevalence, causes, consequences and impact of violence against women in the region and identified gaps in data and statistics by means of a seven-country study undertaken by the secretariat.

G. Subregional activities for development

63. Given the vast coverage and diversity of the African region, the work of ECA under this subprogramme is aimed at strengthening the Commission's presence and engagement at the subregional level in order to better target and deliver programmes that address specific key development priorities, including poverty reduction and sustainable development of member States in the respective subregions. In 2011, the five ECA subregional offices worked with other partners in their respective subregions to provide more focused and in-depth technical assistance to address key development challenges and accelerate the process of regional integration through capacity-building, advisory services, training workshops and the implementation of field projects. The subregional offices also served as a catalyst to operationalize the analytical and normative work of ECA at the subregional and country levels. The main strategy for achieving these objectives was based on the multi-year programme of support and partnership agreed between each subregional office and the secretariats of the main RECs in each subregion. Some of the notable accomplishments and progress made by the subregional offices in addressing subregional development priorities in the context of the implementation of the multi-year programmes are highlighted in this section of the report.

1. Subregional activities for development in Central Africa

64. The subregional office implemented 92 per cent of the 2011 regular programme of work and some additional activities requested by member States and RECs under the multi-year programme. Two ad hoc Expert Group Meetings were organized and

one annual meeting of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) for support to AU and its NEPAD programme was jointly organized with the subregional office for West Africa.

65. The first ad hoc Expert Group Meeting was on "new trends in South-South and triangular cooperation: implications for Central African countries" and sought to identify strategies for improving this cooperation to the benefit of Central African countries. The meeting recommended the development and implementation of a subregional strategy to include strengthening cooperation among Central African States, promoting peace and security and providing a common consultation platform on South-South cooperation. As an immediate outcome of the meeting, the subregional office will organize a panel discussion during the next Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) meeting on the theme "Extent and implications of the cooperation between China and Central Africa" and, in consultation with the Central African RECs, will make initial proposals for the elaboration of a subregional strategy.

66. The second ad hoc Expert Group Meeting was organized with the aim of reviving the negotiation process for the establishment of a single customs union in Central Africa. The theme of the meeting was "tariff nomenclature for the establishment of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)/Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) customs union" and two study reports presented by the subregional office, on the common external tariff and free trade goods respectively, were validated by the participants. The meeting stressed the need to disseminate ECCAS/CEMAC standards and tools in national administrations and the private sector.

67. A high-level meeting on the establishment of an SRCM for support to AU and its NEPAD programme in Central and West Africa was jointly organized by the subregional offices for Central Africa and West Africa. The meeting recommended putting in place a working group tasked with: (a) elaborating the operational framework of the SRCM; (b) analysing the multi-year programmes of the two subregions for their harmonization; and (c) submitting the results of its work to the secretariat of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations Agencies and Organizations Working in Africa (RCM-Africa) in Support of the African Union and its NEPAD Programme for the creation of the SRCM for Central and West Africa.

68. As part of the parliamentary documentation, the subregional office for Central Africa produced four reports, on tracking progress in macroeconomic and social developments in Central Africa; challenges and opportunities of industrial policies in Central Africa; the implementation of regional and international agendas, including NEPAD and other special initiatives in Central Africa; and the work of ECA in Central Africa, including the status of implementation of the multi-year programme. These reports were submitted to the ICE meeting as working documents. Moreover, the subregional office produced the following publications: *Les Economies de l'Afrique Centrale*; *New trends in South-South and triangular cooperation: implications for Central African countries*; *Status of the implementation of the ECCAS free-trade zone*; and *Strategies for the improvement of ECCAS/CEMAC market performance*. For the dissemination of knowledge and information, the subregional office published a booklet on the status of regional integration in Central Africa, assessing the implementation of ECCAS and CEMAC instruments.

69. The office also strengthened its partnerships at the subregional and country levels to support policy advocacy, policymaking and implementation of subregional integration programmes in Central Africa. It played a major role in setting up an inter-agency group of experts tasked to draft a document on the strategic priorities of Cameroon, in light of the emerging issues and within the framework of the mandate of the United Nations. The document was submitted to the strategic planning meeting organized by the Government of Cameroon with a view to aligning United Nations assistance with national priorities. The major outcome of the meeting was the elaboration of the draft United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017.

70. The subregional office provided several advisory services to ECCAS, CEMAC and member States in the areas of transport, water resources, ICT, strengthening regional integration, trade policies, free movement of people, sustainable development and climate change.

71. The office and the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) conducted a joint mission to the ECCAS Secretariat for the identification of subregional priorities on climate change issues. This resulted in a commitment of ECCAS to prepare a subregional action plan on climate change with the assistance of the office and ACPC.

72. With respect to capacity-building, the subregional office organized two training workshops on cli-

mate change and sustainable development in Central Africa and on the legal and regulatory framework for ICT and science and technology in Central Africa. The workshop on climate change and sustainable development in Central Africa was organized in collaboration with ACPC and ECCAS and was attended by 29 participants. It aimed to inform and sensitize civil servants, parliamentarians and civil society on the impact of climate change on social and economic sectors, and to strengthen their capacity to monitor the mainstreaming of climate change issues in national development policies. A number of recommendations were formulated during the workshop, including to create a virtual exchange network with the assistance of the subregional office, to strengthen the capacity of existing institutions dealing with climate change and to elaborate a subregional policy and strategy on climate change. The workshop on the legal and regulatory framework for ICT and science and technology in Central Africa was organized in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union. About a hundred participants from ministries of justice, internal affairs, ICT and trade, as well as parliamentarians and intergovernmental organizations, took part in the workshop, which focused on cybersecurity and cybercriminality. Its main objective was to provide a common legal framework for the information society and to strengthen the institutional capacity of the stakeholders at national and subregional levels. The recommendations of the workshop were to raise awareness and strengthen citizens' capacity regarding cybersecurity, to harmonize the national and subregional cybersecurity legal frameworks and to elaborate capacity-building programmes on cybersecurity.

73. With strengthened staffing in the areas of communication and knowledge management, the subregional office is engaged in an efficient process of information and knowledge dissemination among partners and the general public. Some of the activities carried out in this regard include setting up knowledge-sharing platforms with several communities of practice; training staff from the RECs on knowledge management and utilization of the Teamworks platform; launching the Regional Integration Observatory in Central Africa containing relevant information on regional integration, such as protocols and treaties of the RECs; updating the website of the subregional office; publishing the quarterly and weekly magazines; and mobilizing the media to cover all the major events organized by the office.

74. Moreover, in collaboration with the Information and Communication Technology and Science and Technology Division, the subregional office extended the e-Employment project in Gabon, aimed

at reducing unemployment among young graduates through the use of ICT facilities; this project, which is funded for a period of 12 months, will involve 80 young graduates whose capacity will be strengthened for the labour market. The office continued to host and to supervise graduate students during internships, within the framework of the partnership with the International Relations Institute of Cameroon and the Subregional Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics.

75. All these activities have contributed to: (a) building and strengthening the capacity of member States, RECs, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, universities and research centres; (b) promoting regional integration in the subregion as well as harmonizing sectoral and economic policies, strategies and programmes on emerging issues and/or major development and integration challenges such as post-conflict recovery, free movement of people, the financial crisis, infrastructure development, monitoring of the MDGs, rationalization of regional programmes and private sector development; and (c) enhancing the outreach of the subregional office.

2. Subregional activities for development in Eastern Africa

76. In the period under review, the subregional office for Eastern Africa focused its programme of work on the promotion of regional integration and capacity strengthening for member States, RECs and intergovernmental organizations. Partnerships with other development partners were also enhanced with the aim of assisting member States to attain internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs, and to meet subregional priorities. In that regard, emphasis was placed on advocacy work on regional integration.

77. With regard to policy formulation and advocacy, the subregional office engaged in several consultations, provided policy advice, trained governments, RECs and intergovernmental organizations, and disseminated its knowledge products. Among the consultations was the workshop on assessing the impacts of ICT on climate change. That workshop was deemed important in understanding the actions that different governments and other stakeholders must take to identify ICT-based mitigation and adaptation options and how to use ICT to reduce greenhouse gases within the ICT sector and the rest of the economy. Participants at the meeting recommended that ECA should develop ICT climate change toolkits. The delivery of

advisory services to governments, RECs and intergovernmental organizations contributed to building and strengthening capacity at both national and regional levels. Clients better appreciated the implications of emerging challenges in such areas as tourism, minerals and natural resources, regional integration and ICTs. ECA continued its support to the Government of Rwanda to formulate its National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI 3) plan and to establish the Rwanda Innovation Endowment Fund. The latter will be launched on 20 March 2012 as a platform to fund scientific applied research projects or feasibility studies, implemented by education and research institutions or commercial enterprises in Rwanda. It is expected to help generate knowledge and to encourage basic and applied research and international cooperation in addressing local needs and contributing to solving socio-economic problems specific to the national context. The office also collaborated with SADC in piloting its Regional Gender and Development Protocol Monitoring Tool in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

78. A series of training courses, seminars and workshops organized in the context of knowledge building improved the beneficiaries' appreciation and technical awareness in several areas, including transport and trade facilitation in Eastern African countries and ICTs. The office continued to provide training on economic forecasting and modelling to the central banks of the East African Community (EAC) member States with a view to better equipping them to discharge their oversight and monitoring responsibilities in respect of the macroeconomic convergence criteria for the establishment of the EAC monetary union.

79. Under partnerships and joint activities, collaboration with United Nations agencies, RECs and intergovernmental organizations was further strengthened in 2011, with consultations in the context of the SRCM at the subregional level and through the UNDAF at the national level. While the implementation of multi-year programmes with RECs had been slow, programmes of a subregional nature have been implemented more quickly. During the reporting period, the subregional office also strengthened its collaboration with United Nations agencies nationally and throughout the region on cross-cutting, emerging and also social issues in the areas of women in informal cross-border trade; food security in the subregion; implementation of Security Council resolutions including resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security; and participation in consensus-building and definition of advocacy strategies for

the Secretary-General's campaign *UNiTE to End Violence against Women*.

80. In response to some previous findings and outcomes, the subregional office focused its programme delivery using previously defined benchmarks, in preference to undertaking new initiatives, which clearly enhanced in-house, intra-United Nations and other partner collaboration. In collaboration with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, the office organized the Forum for Regional Dialogue on Accessing Mineral Rights with Equity, held in Kigali, Rwanda, which discussed legal and regulatory frameworks as well as licensing schemes to deliver better development outcomes for host countries from the exploitation of mineral resources.

81. Regional integration, an issue of national and subregional interest which had not previously featured in the work of United Nations country teams, was strategically introduced and mainstreamed into the work of the Rwanda country team. In this regard, the subregional office for Eastern Africa, together with other agencies, collaborated on projects in the STI environment as well as on regional integration.

82. During the period under review, the major beneficiaries of the subregional office's support within the context of the multi-year programmes were the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL). ECA played a pivotal role in shaping and operationalizing the Programme on Food Security in Eastern Africa. This Programme, composed of four major components, namely market and trade development, research and development, sustainable natural resource management, and nutrition and social protection, is built around common elements of existing food security programmes of ICGLR, CEPGL, EAC and IGAD, with a view to exploring economies of scale, reducing duplication of efforts and maximizing impact. In its pilot stage it targets the following countries: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. Several meetings were held throughout 2010 to refine the programme components and outline activities under each component. The last follow-up meeting, which took place in Nairobi, Kenya, in January 2011, provided a platform for the consolidation of partnerships with the AUC, United Nations agencies, subregional civil-society organizations, member States and RECs, in addition to further refining the programme. The collaboration of the subregional

office and the RECs in co-funding the consultative process should be noted.

83. The Task Force to operationalize the SRCM held several consultation exercises, scrutinizing links between United Nations programmes at the country, subregional and regional levels, including the relationships between the SRCM and RCM-Africa, Regional Directors' Teams and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in order to promote a coherent and seamless approach to United Nations programming at the three levels. The multi-year, multi-partner programming approach was considered as the entry point for the operationalization of the SRCM. The Task Force reviewed potential areas of collaboration in five thematic areas, which were considered a priority for the subregion. Other subject areas included the monitoring and evaluation system; reporting lines; and platforms for communication, information sharing and knowledge management. The subregional office was given the mandate to coordinate the work of the SRCM, while several agencies were identified to lead thematic areas. The outcomes of the October 2010 meeting of the Task Force were presented at the eleventh session of RCM-Africa held in Addis Ababa in November 2010. RCM-Africa endorsed the recommendations of the Task Force and directed that consultations should be held with all the RECs and intergovernmental organizations concerned in order to fine-tune the design of the SRCM and its key areas of focus. These consultations took place in 2011.

3. Subregional activities for development in North Africa

84. Since early 2011, North Africa has experienced an unprecedented movement of social upheavals, referred to as the "Arab Spring" or the "Arab Revolution", which has led to regime change in some countries and government changes in others, against a backdrop of political reforms. In light of this, the subregional office for North Africa focused much of its attention on policy support and operational activities, notably in the formulation and implementation of harmonized macroeconomic and sectoral policies and capacity-building programmes. These activities addressed the priority areas of (a) economic integration including cooperation between the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and other RECs; (b) workers' mobility within an integrated Maghreb; (c) sustainable development; and (d) ICT for development.

85. In the area of policy formulation and advocacy, the role played by the subregional office was

balanced and covered equitably both economic and social aspects. While in 2010 the office focused its activities mainly on the economic area, in 2011 most of its resources were allocated to the social and environmental aspects of development, notably employment, youth, gender and workers' mobility. Activities undertaken in those specific areas were formulated and implemented in response to the needs expressed by member States themselves, which urged the subregional office, during the twenty-sixth meeting of ICE for example, to conduct an overview of youth participation in North Africa. The office seized this opportunity to partner with AMU, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and others to design a youth programme comprising a North Africa Development Forum and an Expert Group Meeting on youth and participation in North Africa. This programme is already seen as a major response by ECA and its partners to the social crisis in the subregion.

86. Another major activity coordinated by the subregional office in the above-mentioned area is the joint regional workshop on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), held jointly with the African Centre for Gender and Social Development and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The timeline for this activity should be underlined as the workshop was held at an exceptional time marked by the revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia and increasing calls for democratic change in many other countries in the region. That context led participants to ponder the strategies to be implemented by some countries in the region for the withdrawal of pending reservations to CEDAW and the ratification of the Optional Protocol thereto. The workshop was also an opportunity to remind all stakeholders, including member States, of their obligations to implement CEDAW, promote women's rights and address gender discrimination in the public and private spheres. The recommendations of the workshop gave further support to the ongoing promising initiatives in a number of countries in the region, namely Algeria, Egypt and Morocco, to withdraw some reservations and further develop their legislation regarding women's rights.

87. In addition, the subregional office convened five Expert Group Meetings which increased the momentum of its work on policy development and advocacy in the areas of: (a) reinforcing social dimensions in development policies and programmes in North

Africa; (b) financing for development in North Africa; (c) shaping a common position and coordinating policies to address challenges related to climate change; (d) promoting workers' mobility across the AMU member States; and (e) developing a North African approach to South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of world economic governance.

88. In the context of knowledge building and sharing of the activities of the Regional Integration Observatory in collaboration with WTO, Université Lyon II and Université Mohammed V Souissi, the office organized the fifth International Mediterranean Colloquium, on the theme "Trade liberalization and the dynamics of inequality". Many experts from 15 countries contributed to the seminar and more than 60 presentations were made, thus enhancing the knowledge platform that the subregional office is maintaining on this crucial topic for the region.

89. As recommended by the member States of the subregion, the Colloquium has become an annual event and a major meeting place for eminent experts involved in development issues in the subregion, and its interactions and linkages with other subregions. It has also helped to strengthen relations between the subregional office and academia at both regional and international levels and to enhance its visibility. As a result, a network of experts has been established and meets on an annual basis. The members of this network are also involved in multiple activities of the subregional office as resource persons, experts, consultants or peer reviewers. Three publications based on selected presentations and the outcomes of previous Colloquia have been produced and widely disseminated.

90. In terms of technical cooperation and capacity-building, the subregional office continued to provide technical support to its member States through technical advisory missions. The office visited Algeria, went on an exploratory mission to Mauritania with divisions from ECA headquarters (the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division, the Economic Development and NEPAD Division and the African Centre for Statistics) with a view to identifying possible areas of support by ECA, and held consultations with senior representatives of the Tunisian interim government to identify the new development priorities set after the Tunisian revolution of January 2011. This was in addition to the office's continuous interaction with key government departments and stakeholders in Morocco. Advisory services thus provided have contributed to accelerating the efforts undertaken by those countries to develop and implement more inclusive and employment-generating

growth strategies. They have also helped to raise awareness in member countries of the need to adopt a regional approach to national development, an area where the full support of ECA and the subregional office for North Africa are highly productive.

91. The subregional office has greatly strengthened its partnership with AMU and many joint activities have been organized in the context of the 2010-2012 multi-year programme. The office seized the opportunity presented by the International Year of Youth to translate into action the “One United Nations” initiative by coordinating a team consisting of ISESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP representatives to plan and organize the 2011 North Africa Development Forum, which focused on a timely theme: “Youth, actors of development”. Synergies built between the subregional office and its partners led to the success of this Forum being widely acknowledged in the region itself and beyond. A joint follow-up programme to be implemented over the coming three years is under development.

92. The regional process for Rio+20 is another example of partnership and cooperation, as AMU and other specialized institutions, including United Nations system bodies (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Economic Commission for Europe, etc.) are fully involved in the implementation of the ongoing Development Account project on renewable energy development in the region.

93. Other areas of partnership include a workshop on cybercriminality in North Africa and a meeting on collaboration between AMU and the African RECs. AMU officials participated actively in the activities of the office, including the ICE meeting, at which a specific session on regional integration was held.

94. The subregional office continued its efforts to establish an SRCM for United Nations system-wide support to AU and its NEPAD programme and RECs in North Africa. In this context, a meeting on monitoring and assessing the multi-year programme of the subregional office and AMU was organized on the theme “The partnership for the Maghreb”. It brought together major stakeholders involved in the development process in North Africa to discuss the activities planned for the next multi-year programme (2011-2013) and to identify potential activities that could be implemented jointly.

95. Furthermore, the subregional office is establishing partnerships with other stakeholders including United Nations agencies. In that context, the office

has intensified its role as an active member of the United Nations country team in Morocco and in Tunisia, strengthened its relationship with the country teams in Algeria, Egypt and Mauritania, and aims to increase its involvement with those of other member States of the subregion. Its key input to the work of the country teams is to mainstream regional integration dimensions in the UNDAFs and help member States to integrate a regional dimension in their policies. In that respect, the office has also participated in the meetings of the Regional United Nations Development Group for the Arab States/Middle East and North Africa Region and in the work of the Cairo-based Peer Support Group, to strengthen its consultation and collaboration with the United Nations system at the regional level. It has also strengthened its collaboration with ESCWA in several areas, including ICT, energy, and the regional preparatory process for Rio+20.

4. Subregional activities for development in Southern Africa

96. During the period under review, the subregional office for Southern Africa continued to assist member States, RECs, intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders in policy coordination and harmonization. The main focus of the work was on strengthening the capacities of member States for regional integration, with particular emphasis on the specific priorities of the Southern African subregion within the overall framework of NEPAD and the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.

97. The subregional office provided technical backstopping through various workshops, seminars and training programmes on the integration of gender in the different sectors of development, including a workshop organized by the SADC Secretariat to build capacity, create awareness and develop strategies to mainstream gender in the finance and development planning ministries of the SADC member States. That meeting prioritized gender budgeting as a starting point and provided a platform for the sharing of experiences, especially by member States that have institutionalized gender budgeting and planning. Participants also developed a strategy to involve broad-based stakeholders in monitoring and implementing the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

98. As part of its advisory services to member States of the subregion and SADC, and within the framework of the multi-year programme agreed with SADC, the office provided support and substan-

tive technical input to the preparation of the SADC Regional Human Development Report. The Human Development Report is a collaborative biennial publication of the two institutions. Building on the work undertaken by UNDP, the office will track the progress being made in human development in the subregion within the broader framework of regional integration, using a set of selected indicators, including poverty and income inequality; employment and labour; education and youth; health and HIV/AIDS; gender equality and women's empowerment; and food and nutritional issues. In this context, the office organized a forum in July 2010, which brought together experts from member States, SADC, COMESA, AfDB, AU and United Nations agencies to define the outline, areas of focus and time frame for the preparation of the Regional Human Development Report. The report is currently being finalized and will be validated by member States at a workshop scheduled for the second quarter of 2012. It is envisaged that the final report will be submitted to the Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government in 2012 for adoption.

99. The office also presented a parliamentary publication, entitled "Progress report on the implementation of regional and international agendas, including NEPAD and other special initiatives in the subregion: a water and sanitation perspective" to the seventeenth ICE meeting in March 2011. The report takes stock of progress achieved by the SADC countries with respect to the MDG target on safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and also aims to make countries aware of the policy reforms and interventions necessary for improved service coverage. Key recommendations of the report include the need for member States to translate political will into action through the development and implementation of policy, strategy and costed action plans; to identify and develop appropriate financing mechanisms that address the issues related to water supply and sanitation service delivery and ensure that allocations to water supply and sanitation as a priority sector are protected in actual budget releases; and to leverage additional resources for water supply and sanitation by mobilizing community and private sector resources, especially with a focus on microfinance and sustainable commercial financing systems, and developing appropriate regulatory frameworks and partnership arrangements.

100. During the period under consideration, the office organized an ad hoc Expert Group Meeting, in Windhoek, Namibia, in March 2011, to review a report that it had commissioned on "South-South and triangular cooperation: implications for Southern African countries". The ad hoc Expert Group Meeting

raised awareness and mobilized support for strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation, enhancing global partnerships and building stronger South-South institutions. Recommendations were made on the need for beneficiary and pivotal countries to meaningfully engage through RECs in formulating a framework for international cooperation on South-South and triangular cooperation.

101. The subregional office collaborated with the ATPC, UNDP and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to support the participation of women miners in the SADC Women in Business Trade Fair and Investment Forum, held in Namibia in August 2010. That initiative has led to ongoing dialogue and an action plan to support the formation of a Regional Women in Business Forum in Southern Africa.

102. At the request of the SADC Secretariat, the office developed and validated an e-SADC Strategy Framework which was submitted and adopted at the Meeting of SADC Ministers responsible for Telecommunications, Postal and ICT, held in Luanda, Angola, in May 2010. The main objective of the e-SADC Strategy Framework is to promote the use of ICT for regional economic integration; enhance connectivity and access to ICT services among and within SADC member States; and develop applications including e-government, e-commerce, e-education, e-health and e-agriculture that address policy, legislative, regulatory, human and financial issues. As part of its implementation support for the e-SADC Strategy Framework, the office assisted the Parliament of Botswana to develop ICT. This was in addition to the ICT master plans for the Swazi and Zambian Parliaments developed in 2010. The master plan for Zambia was launched in December 2011, while the launches for Swaziland and Botswana will take place in the course of 2012. Requests for similar support have been received from Zimbabwe and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

5. Subregional activities for development in West Africa

103. The subregional office continued to implement planned outputs in accordance with the programme of work for 2010-2011 and responded to the recommendations of member States as expressed at the fourteenth meeting of the ICE of West Africa. In undertaking its tasks, the office cooperated with ECOWAS, intergovernmental organizations and other cooperating partners with a view to strengthening the synergies of subregional activities.

104. The subregional office organized the 14th ICE meeting in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in March 2011, to review the implementation of the MDGs in West Africa. The meeting observed that although countries had made some progress on all MDGs, the results attained were uneven and required the countries to commit more resources to targeted programmes. The meeting also discussed the need to create synergies among United Nations agencies by operationalizing the SRCM.

105. The ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on “fragile States and development in West Africa” was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 8 to 9 March 2011. It discussed the fragility of States, and the associated challenges and achievements, and made concrete recommendations. A technical publication on the experience of five countries in the subregion was produced and disseminated.

106. A one day workshop on poverty reduction in West Africa was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, on 8 March 2011, with the aim of strengthening the capacities of ECOWAS member States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), the Mano River Union, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society in economic and social policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The workshop made recommendations for strengthening poverty reduction strategies.

107. The report on economic and social conditions in West Africa is a statutory annual publication submitted by the subregional office for the consideration of the ICE of the subregion. The report for 2010 comprised: (a) an analysis of economic trends in 2010 and the future prospects for the subregion; and (b) an in-depth subregional analysis on progress towards the attainment of the MDGs in West Africa. This report was the first joint publication of the ECOWAS Commission and ECA.

108. The office held a workshop on the harmonization of methodologies for collecting data and economic forecasting, from 23 to 24 August 2011 in Niamey, the Niger, to strengthen skills in data collection and to address the challenges of data harmonization and economic forecasting at both national and subregional levels. The workshop recommended the enhancement of data harmonization and economic forecasting in the subregion.

109. A training workshop on governance indicators in West Africa was held in Dakar, Senegal, from 3 to 4 October 2011. The objective of the workshop was to

familiarize stakeholders in West Africa with the instruments from which the governance indicators used by ECA to compile the *African Governance Report* are derived. The workshop, as part of the capacity-building efforts of ECA, aimed to strengthen the capacity of stakeholders at the national and subregional levels to be able to assess governance performance.

110. As a follow-up to the decision of the eleventh session of RCM-Africa to organize a high-level meeting on the establishment of an SRCM, a meeting was convened from 5 to 6 October 2011 in Dakar, Senegal. The meeting discussed the establishment of an SRCM for Central and West Africa and a brainstorming session was held to consider the modalities for enabling United Nations agencies in those subregions to deliver as one. The meeting called for the establishment of a task force led by ECA to operationalize the SRCM. The taskforce will review the multi-year programmes for Central and West Africa to ensure alignment with the SRCM.

111. An observatory, recommended in a study on knowledge production, dissemination and communication strategies that the subregional office had commissioned, was launched at the workshop held on 25 August 2011 in Niamey, the Niger. The observatory, which was developed on the basis of the existing ECA knowledge management system, known as Teamworks, will facilitate the sharing of knowledge/information and the establishment of communities of practice and networks on regional integration.

112. A Forum on Trade Transit Facilitation was organized in Bamako, Mali, from 29 to 30 November 2011, in collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission as part of the multi-year programme agreed between the two institutions. Participants at the Forum discussed transit trade facilitation in West Africa and analysed the specific challenges faced by the three landlocked countries in West Africa (Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger). The Forum requested the subregional office to collaborate with the ECOWAS Commission and UEMOA to develop an action plan.

113. The subregional office has seconded a Regional Advisor on Infrastructure to the ECOWAS Commission. As part of the technical assistance provided by ECA to the ECOWAS Commission, the office organized a training workshop to enhance capacity in project management, with the overall objective of strengthening the capacity of participants in drafting project specifications, responses to tender offers and project estimates. It has also continued to provide technical assistance to the ECOWAS Commission's Industry and Mines Department.

114. The office responded to a request for capacity enhancement assistance from the Mano River Union Secretariat by providing technical assistance to develop the organization's website, together with hardware and software support for the Secretariat.

115. Consultations on strengthening formal cooperation between UEMOA and the subregional office took place in July 2011 in Ouagadougou. The two parties agreed to ensure that the Association of West African Intergovernmental Organizations is operational to allow the exchange of information and serve as an entry point for the SRCM for Central and West Africa. A memorandum of understanding for the collaboration with UEMOA has been drafted.

116. As a follow-up to the recommendations of the thirteenth and fourteenth ICE meetings, efforts have been undertaken to strengthen the Association of West African Intergovernmental Organizations framework for the West African Community Development Programme. In collaboration with ECOWAS, the office organized an awareness-raising meeting, at which participants expressed concern at the slow pace of progress towards signing the formal memorandum of understanding for the said Association and urged the heads of the institutions to complete the formalities.

117. The office continued to address the specific needs of member States in the subregion. The following ongoing activities reflect the efforts made in this regard. In May 2011, the Liberian Ministry of Gender and Development requested technical assistance to implement its National Gender Policy. In response to the request, ECA provided assistance in organizing a gender sector round table, conducting a baseline study for the implementation of the National Gender Policy and building the capacity of staff from the Ministry and other line ministries in gender planning, budgeting, and monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, in response to a request from the Government, ECA undertook a mission to Liberia in August 2011 and assessed the technical assistance required to enable the Government to implement its policy. The activities planned in the context of this assistance include capacity-building for and development of a national gender strategy and the mainstreaming, budgeting, planning, monitoring and evaluation of gender. An ECA assessment mission is planned for early April 2012.

H. Development planning and administration

118. The past year has been a momentous period for the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) in many respects, as the Institute worked to consolidate the gains of its repositioning, which began in 2009. The period was marked by massive efforts to implement the strategic plan endorsed by the Institute's Governing Council in March 2010, the broad elements of which are: re-launching and expanding programmes; significant scaling up of participation in the Institute's programmes; improving institutional presence and visibility; revamping the training and capacity enhancement curriculum; improving institutional outreach; fostering programmatic collaboration with the substantive divisions of ECA; promoting programmatic partnerships with the AUC and expanding the revenue and financial base of the Institute. These objectives have been mostly realized, and in many cases, targets set have been surpassed.

119. As a result of the repositioning, IDEP can now better deliver on its mandate of providing capacity-building and training to middle- and senior-level officials in relevant areas of economic planning and development management to make them more proficient and effective in responding to the development challenges of their countries. Awareness of the presence and role of IDEP grew in its headquarters country of Senegal and other African countries, as attested to by the number of nominees sent by member States. For each of the courses IDEP announced in 2010 and 2011, applications exceeded the spaces available by a factor of four or five.

120. Measurable outcomes in terms of an increase in the scale, diversity, and reach of the training programmes were registered. IDEP course offerings underwent massive growth in the past year. From six short courses offered in 2009, the Institute moved to 18 short courses in 2010 and expanded short course offerings to 22 in 2011. The short courses were for durations of one to six weeks. The number of beneficiaries from the short courses offered by the Institute topped 600 in 2011, compared to 500 in 2010 and less than 200 in 2009. The range of courses on offer also grew tremendously, allowing for choice and also covering different areas of need on a continent where differentiation among countries is growing, generating differences in capacity development needs. The content of the courses and their themes were shifted radically to concentrate on the long-term development objectives of the African continent, underpinned by

a renewed culture of planning and visioning in the wake of the collapse of the adjustment model that had emerged from the so-called Washington Consensus.

121. In 2011, IDEP received record contributions from its African member States, standing at just over \$2 million, the highest ever registered in the history of the Institute. In addition, the General Assembly approved an unprecedented increase in the grant to the Institute, from just under \$1 million in 2010-2011 to \$2.6 million in the 2012-2013 biennium. Renewed interest and confidence in IDEP by its member States also spurred other avenues for collaboration with a range of institutions, including AUC, UNDP and the European Union. Partnership with substantive divisions of ECA was also resumed on a major scale, as several joint initiatives in capacity development were mounted with the African Centre for Gender and Social Development, the Economic Development and NEPAD Division, the Governance and Public Administration Division, the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division and the Regional Integration, Infrastructure and Trade Division.

122. The period under review also witnessed the full revival of IDEP policy research activities to enable the Institute to contribute to strengthening an African policy agenda. In addition to policy conferences and dialogues held in Senegal, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, research projects on migration, mobility and employment were carried out. Also, typologies of development planning institutions in Africa, Arab investments in Africa, SMEs in employment generation in Africa, cultures of development and capacity needs assessments of African countries were carried out. As planned, two new visiting fellowship initiatives were introduced; one was exclusively for policy officials and the other for policy researchers. A study tour programme for policy officials was also launched. The nominations received from member States and independent applications received for fellowships and the study tour initiatives far exceeded the spaces available, suggesting that the initiatives served to fill an important void. A new IDEP monthly development seminar series was also launched in 2011 and has been a successful event to which high profile international speakers in the area of development have been invited and which has attracted the active participation of the international development community in Dakar and its environs. Several publications are under way from the various research initiatives.

123. In all, over 350 senior government officials, academics, civil-society leaders and private sector actors participated in the different policy research

activities organized by the Institute in 2011. The research initiatives have had the distinct advantage of strengthening the IDEP institutional profile as a site for advanced study, reflection and debate. They have also contributed to nurturing a research-policy nexus in African development that is a key part of the ECA mission and have allowed IDEP to buttress its training and capacity development activities with a stronger research base and input. Additionally, the research initiatives have contributed to the extension of the reach of the Institute both territorially and in terms of the constituencies and needs it serves.

I. Statistics

124. ECA work under this subprogramme focused on advocacy and the provision of technical assistance to engage countries to adopt international methodologies in their statistical operations and disseminate statistical data for policymaking.

125. In this context, efforts by pan-African institutions and member States in the past few years to improve data availability on development indicators, including MDG indicators, have yielded positive results. More data points are now available on the MDGs, as a result of population and housing censuses, demographic and health surveys, multi-indicator cluster surveys and other household surveys. In Africa, while in 2000 only two countries (4 per cent) had at least two data points for the 30 or more MDG indicators, by 2010, the number had increased to 24. Efforts made by pan-African institutions have also improved coordination on the statistics pertaining to MDG indicators within member States, thereby reducing discrepancies.

126. ECA, in partnership with AfDB, AUC and countries such as South Africa, advocated for more active participation by African countries in the current round of Population and Housing Censuses (PHC), particularly during the last five Africa Symposiums on Statistical Development. As a result, 29 countries have already conducted their PHCs and 24 others plan to do so before 2014. Hence, it is expected that by the end of the current round, 53 African countries will have conducted a census, including countries like Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo which have not conducted censuses in the past two decades. Currently, as many as 16 countries have already conducted PHCs in all the three rounds starting from 1990, while 18 more will be expected to achieve this if they conduct their census as planned. Furthermore, although they did not participate in

both the 1990 and 2000 rounds, Djibouti, Liberia and Togo have already completed the current round.

127. The First Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration in 2010 laid the foundation for renewed efforts to improve Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems (CRVS) in Africa, with the consequent declaration leading to the development of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of CRVS (APAI-CRVS). In this context, pan-African institutions and United Nations agencies have come together as a core group to coordinate the implementation of APAI-CRVS. As directed by the ministers, an assessment of the status of CRVS in African countries has been initiated. To this end, the 7th Africa Symposium on Statistical Development in Cape Town, South Africa, organized an experience-sharing platform that brought together civil registration and national statistical offices from all African countries for the first time. It is expected that the recommendations of the two stakeholders will revive the diminishing engagement of the national statistical offices and pave the way for renewed interest in civil registration-derived vital statistics.

128. Through the provision of technical and promotional material, ECA supported the national celebration of African Statistics Day in 2011, which was organized under the theme “Keeping the accounts for a brighter future”, and focused on the importance of national accounts. In this regard, Cameroon, Djibouti, Madagascar, Rwanda and Uganda organized a week-long celebration rather than celebrating just the day itself. As a result of the advocacy around African Statistics Day, the global and regional strategies for implementation of the System of National Accounts, 2008 (2008 SNA) have been adopted by a number of African countries, including Botswana, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, the Sudan and Tunisia. These countries also received support from the United Nations country team to operationalize the task force assigned with the design and implementation of the national implementation project for the 2008 SNA. In the Sudan, the technical support and the strategies were very helpful in separating the accounts and GDP of Southern and Northern Sudan.

129. At the regional level, ECA and AfDB have designed a five-year regional programme for the implementation of the 2008 SNA along with the African Group on National Accounts. The programme was fully endorsed by African countries at the third session of the Statistical Commission for Africa (Stat-Com-Africa III), which urged pan-African institutions, RECs and member States to take ownership of the programme document, all member States to work

together and allocate resources, and development partners to mobilize the necessary funds to support its implementation. In this context, ECA continues to provide technical leadership as well as serve as the programme secretariat.

130. The work of ECA in the area of foreign trade statistics has increased harmonization in the compilation of trade statistics through the adoption of international standards and manuals, as well as the use of common software (Eurotrace) for statisticians at national statistical offices and customs departments. ECA, in collaboration with UNCTAD, the United Nations Statistics Division, WTO, the World Customs Organization Eurostat and COMESA organized a series of training workshops and Expert Group Meetings on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) in 2011. The 14 African countries that participated in the regional seminar agreed to prepare country action plans to strengthen trade statistics in line with the recommendations of the international standard manual (IMTS 2010), to work closely with the two key agencies – the national statistical and customs offices – and to submit the revised action plans to ECA within six months of the seminar. In response to requests, ECA has prepared the 2011 publication *Compendium of Intra-African and Related Foreign Trade Statistics* to provide quality and timely merchandise statistics, as well as to support regional economic, monetary and social integration in Africa.

131. In facilitating access and use of authoritative and quality data series, ECA continued to compile and disseminate statistics on development indicators in collaboration with countries. In 2011, ECA, AfDB and the AUC produced the third annual *African Statistical Yearbook*, a joint publication that is a leading source of statistical information on Africa. This joint collaborative approach of the three partners reduces the reporting burden on member States, avoids duplication of efforts and ensures consistency among the indicators used and published. As a result of this successful venture, ECA is extending the collaboration to RECs to further streamline the process and ensure consistency at subregional levels.

132. In 2011, efforts were also pursued to update and improve the ECA statistical database (StatBase). This included improvements to the databases with GIS/mapping components. The user interface was enhanced to make the user experience more interactive and several modules of the databases were improved. Building on the data in StatBase, a special presentation tool was implemented as the LDCs Monitor to facilitate the visual presentation of relevant indicators for countries classified as least developed.

133. ECA work also focuses on addressing the weak capability of African countries on issues pertaining to institutional frameworks for statistics, which is a major constraint to the development of statistics in Africa. These issues include inadequate resources, ineffective organization and weak collaboration between national data producing agencies. Therefore, to improve effectiveness and efficiency in the rehabilitation and management of national statistical systems in Africa, ECA, in collaboration with key partners, including the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), the World Bank and AfDB, provided technical assistance to countries for the design, adoption and exchange of experiences and best practices on National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDSs). As of December 2011, 29 countries are implementing their NSDSs, while 16 have finalized the design and are awaiting approval and funding to start implementation.

134. The NSDS is increasingly becoming a prerequisite for accessing funding from development partners, and several countries with NSDSs have substantially scaled up their statistical development. Given the existing coordination at the country level, development partners are now moving towards pooling of funds to support national priorities in statistical operations as part of NSDS processes. Countries assisted in the implementation of NSDS by ECA and other partners include Burundi, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Mauritania and Togo.

135. ECA also undertook activities aimed at improving statistical training programmes for Africa, especially in its capacity as the secretariat of the African Group on Statistical Training. In this regard, the Commission is compiling a compendium of statistical training centres and conducting a study on their needs and requirements. Several training activities were also organized at various statistical training centres on emerging issues such as environmental statistics, poverty and governance. The participating centres included the Ecole Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ENSEA-Abidjan), the Institut sous-Régional de Statistique et de l'Economie Appliquée (ISSEA-Yaoundé) and the Ecole Nationale d'Economie Appliquée (ENEA-Dakar).

J. Social development

136. In the context of ECA work under this subprogramme, salient achievements were made in support of member States' efforts to promote human and social development in line with stated international and regional commitments, including the MDGs.

This was done in collaboration with key partners including the AUC, AfDB, RECs and other United Nations agencies.

137. Policy research on gender-sensitive social protection has raised awareness about the different types of social protection programmes in Africa that address the gendered nature of poverty, risk and vulnerability, in support of the AUC African Social Protection Framework. The subprogramme's report on "Strengthening Capacities to Promote Gender-Sensitive Social Protection Policies in African Countries" provides policymakers with evidence from nine African countries and concrete recommendations that will make for the mainstreaming of social protection policies and gender into national and subregional development plans and frameworks.

138. The subprogramme produced its first *African Social Development Report*, which addressed social protection and informed the European Report on Social Protection in sub-Saharan Africa. In the context of strengthening technical capacities, the subprogramme organized a consultative training workshop to operationalize and use accountability indices for accelerating implementation of commitments on HIV/AIDS. The workshop: (a) built consensus on what measures and mechanisms are useful in strengthening accountability on the implementation of HIV/AIDS-related commitments in Africa; (b) contributed towards strengthening national capacity to effectively report on HIV/AIDS commitments in order to increase accountability; and (c) established follow-up activities for all stakeholders in the use of the HIV/AIDS accountability tool.

139. The subprogramme continued to track the implementation of the recommendations from the Report of the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa, *Securing Our Future*. The results of the tracking process facilitate the strengthening of the capacity of member States to effectively monitor the progress they are making towards implementation of HIV/AIDS commitments whilst assisting them in developing future policies.

140. Extensive work has been done by the subprogramme on youth, together with the AUC and other partners. A policy dialogue was held on youth issues involving ambassadors, key politicians and the youth during the joint celebrations of the United Nations International Year of Youth/African Youth Day. At the African Youth Forum, key messages and recommendations for policies regarding youth were developed for discussion in preparation for the 2011 African Union Summit. Five African ministers in charge of

youth and 15 parliamentarians heard key messages and recommendations for policies regarding national youth machineries, regional integration and social protection in preparation for the Seventeenth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union in July 2011.

141. ECA delivered a technical discussion paper on youth employment policies for the 2011 meeting of the African Union Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs. Furthermore, it supported and facilitated the second training session of the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps, where 138 young Africans from 27 countries were provided with the requisite skills for deployment in various countries across the continent. To date, ECA has received requests from two civil-society organizations in Ghana and Nigeria to provide technical assistance to support them in strengthening their youth employment programmes. The organization from Ghana intends to scale up its interventions to the subregional level within the ECOWAS region.

142. To strengthen and develop the capacity of young people on the continent, ECA provided two youth fellowships. The fellows worked on international migration, youth issues, maternal mortality, and HIV and AIDS.

143. ECA activities on social development and climate change have broadened the understanding of approximately 100 policymakers and stakeholders on the centrality of population, gender, health and youth issues to climate change discussions, actions and strategies. This achievement is a direct result of the Seventh African Development Forum (ADF VII) Pre-event, which focused on climate change through the lens of vulnerability. Recommendations of the Pre-event were incorporated into the ADF VII Consensus Statement, thus contributing to its overall success. Representatives from the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development and the Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana commended the subprogramme on the event and requested further collaboration for developing policies to adapt to the social implications of climate change.

144. Results from a study on "Strengthening policy development on sexual and reproductive health focusing on women's rights: an analysis of existing research addressing unsafe abortion in Africa" were presented to representatives of ministries of health, non-governmental organizations and civil-society organizations that tackle maternal health challenges in 24 countries at the regional conference "Keeping Our Promises: Addressing Unsafe Abortion in Africa." Ongoing research on building capacity for better maternal

health outcomes aligned to the African Union 2010 Kampala Declaration has highlighted the need for innovative training programmes for health professionals and new funding modalities to address the lack of equitable and quality maternal health services among vulnerable and socially excluded women.

145. The Fourth Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development approved resolution 885 (XLIV) on health financing in Africa, as a result of research work and substantive servicing of the subprogramme. The subprogramme reports on health were presented to the AU Ministers of Health meeting in Windhoek, Namibia in May 2011, which was on the theme "The impact of climate change on health in Africa", a contribution that was highly commended by the African Union.

146. In 2011, ECA compiled two reports on international migration and development in Africa. The first report on the theme "The migration and climate nexus" highlighted key policy messages and concrete recommendations for addressing the bi-directional relationship between migration and climate change, particularly for building capacity among the most vulnerable communities at the local level. These messages were presented to 36 member States and other stakeholders at the second meeting of the Committee on Human and Social Development on 19 October 2011. The second migration report focused on cooperation and policy dialogue to promote regional integration. This theme is congruent with the recommendations of the High-Level Dialogue convened in New York in 2006, particularly with its call for the continuation of cooperation and dialogue at all levels to minimize the costs and maximize the benefits of international migration for development. The report was delivered at the Africa Regional Dialogue on International Migration, which was held on 17 October 2011 and attended by senior experts from 36 African countries and other stakeholders working on international migration.

147. ECA also published the *African Social Development Review*, which focuses on promoting and supporting the social development priorities of ECA, AUC and the AU-NEPAD programme. Contributions to the first and second issues of the Review were received from 11 African experts. They were shared with member States at the second meeting of the Committee on Human and Social Development.

K. Other programmes

148. In addition to the core programme of work described above, ECA has a mandate to implement other cross-cutting programmes and activities in line with the policy priorities of its member States. Key among these in 2011 was the enhanced support to the African Union in the context of the implementation of NEPAD and the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (TYCBP), including support to the APRM. Other substantive programme activities focused on providing technical assistance to member States and their institutions upon request to address key development challenges using resources from the United Nations regular programme of technical cooperation and the United Nations Development Account.

1. United Nations system-wide support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme

149. In 2011, ECA continued to push for the enhancement of the coordination and coherence of United Nations activities in Africa through RCM-Africa. Several projects and activities were undertaken in this regard, including: (a) an Expert Group Meeting on coordinating development in Africa; (b) group training on the implementation and appraisal of NEPAD-related projects; (c) provision of specific capacity building support to various AU organs; (d) organization of the twelfth session of RCM-Africa; (e) strengthening of the RCM-Africa secretariat; (f) coordination of cluster activities; (g) participation in the ICEs organized by subregional offices and (h) experience and knowledge sharing among subregional offices on the establishment of SRCMs.

150. RCM-Africa brings together the heads of some 30 United Nations regional and subregional entities and affiliated offices to maximize coherence and impact in United Nations system-wide support to Africa in the context of NEPAD and the TYCBP. It also includes the AUC, RECs, and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) as members. ECA provides secretariat support to RCM-Africa and its thematic clusters and is mandated to convene the annual RCM meetings. The RCM-Africa thematic clusters promote improved coherence and coordination through joint planning and implementation on specific operational and programmatic issues in the following areas: advocacy and communications; agriculture, food security and rural development; environment, population and urbanization; science and technology; social and human development; industry,

trade and market access; infrastructure and governance; and peace and security.

151. The past year offered many opportunities for the United Nations to enhance its support to the AU and its NEPAD programme, both collectively and individually. In this regard, United Nations entities continued to improve the alignment of their programmes with those of the AUC, NPCA and RECs. Through RCM-Africa and its various thematic clusters, interaction between United Nations agencies and organizations, on the one hand, and AU institutions (AUC, NPCA, RECs and the Pan-African Parliament), on the other, continued to be strengthened. With the completion of the capacity needs assessment of AUC and the adoption of a comprehensive work programme for the implementation of the TYCBP for the African Union (TYCBP-AU) at the twelfth session of RCM-Africa in November 2011, the framework for capacity-building of AU institutions as partners for Africa's development became clearer.

152. The Joint United Nations-African Union RCM-Africa secretariat initiated and completed an exercise to help United Nations agencies and organizations develop a multi-year work programme for NPCA, a necessary task in support of its transformation from its erstwhile secretariat role to that of a technical agency of AU. The multi-year programme is now being implemented, with ECA playing a lead role. In this context, ECA provided support to NPCA in the preparation of the Busan Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, which resulted in the exceptional contribution and performance of African countries at the event.

153. 2011 was a milestone in the history of NEPAD, as it marked the tenth anniversary of the programme. The United Nations system played a key role in raising public awareness about the achievements of the programme at the global, regional and national levels, with the organization of the NEPAD Week during the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. These events helped to strengthen partnerships in support of the implementation of the programme.

154. The twelfth session of RCM-Africa was held in Addis Ababa in November 2011 to review progress made by the RCM and its thematic clusters. The meeting, which was jointly chaired by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and the AUC Deputy Chairperson considered and adopted the draft work programme on capacity-building for the AUC and also made several important recommendations aimed at enhancing the implementation and delivery of the

TYCBP-AU. Among the recommendations was the need for the secretariats of the MDG Africa Working Group, RCM-Africa and the Regional Directors' Teams to review modalities for developing stronger synergies among themselves and the possibility of "an extended RCM-Africa". Significant progress has also been made in the establishment of SRCMs, in particular the one for Eastern and Southern Africa, which was launched at a pre-event of the twelfth session of RCM-Africa.

155. In addition to the collective activities undertaken by United Nations entities in support of NEPAD, specific assistance was offered by individual entities to advance the work in the various thematic clusters. For its part, ECA supports the implementation of NEPAD priorities, most of which are at the core of its mandate, through its analytical work and technical assistance in different areas, with particular focus on socio-economic development and political governance issues. ECA achievements in support of AU and its NEPAD programme are many and well documented throughout this report.

156. During the past year, ongoing collaboration with the AUC was further enhanced, particularly in the areas of trade, gender, ICT, science and technology, governance and public administration, land policy and climate change. Joint initiatives in 2011 to support knowledge generation and dissemination include preparation of the *Economic Report on Africa*, the report on Assessing Regional Integration in Africa, the Millennium Development Goals and the joint implementation of activities such as the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

157. In support of the implementation of the APRM, ECA provided extensive technical support to the APRM Panel of Eminent Persons, the APRM secretariat and the participating countries at each of the five stages of the review process, ranging from country support missions to the drafting of background documents, country review visits, drafting of country reports, the final country report and the National Programme of Action and publication of the country review reports and the National Programme of Action. ECA has also been supporting participating countries to mobilize stakeholder participation and fostering peer learning among APRM countries by identifying best practices in the APRM process and promoting their replication. In addition, it has provided technical assistance for integrating the APRM with existing national development strategies in some countries. The continued support provided by ECA to the APRM process has contributed to increasing

the capacity of member States to conduct the peer review and enhancing the capacity of various stakeholders to engage in the process. A practical demonstration of these joint efforts is that more countries have acceded to the APRM process, while others have already completed it.

2. Technical cooperation

158. Technical cooperation is an important supporting instrument for implementing the ECA core programme of work described in the preceding section of this report. Technical cooperation activities are carried out in support of the priorities of member States, with particular focus on enhancing their capacity to address challenges related to the implementation of the priorities of NEPAD and the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The funding for ECA technical cooperation activities comes from the United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC), the United Nations Development Account and extrabudgetary resources negotiated with bilateral and multilateral donors. This section highlights achievements under the RPTC and Development Account, while recent developments on extrabudgetary resource mobilization and management are covered in chapter 3 of this report.

• United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation

159. Funding from RPTC in the 2010-2011 biennium amounted to a total of approximately \$US11.5 million, which provided funding for a number of full-time regional advisers and short-term experts deployed in the various divisions and subregional offices, whose primary function is to provide specialized advice and training to support capacity development of member States in addressing critical development challenges in the following areas: MDG-based poverty reduction strategies and programmes; trade capacity-building and trade negotiations; integrated water resource management; statistics; gender mainstreaming, including enhancing women's legal and human rights; harnessing ICTs for development; knowledge management; infrastructure development; governance and public administration; post-conflict reconstruction and implementation of NEPAD. As part of efforts to promote policy change and strengthen institutional capacities in these areas, ECA organized 48 workshops and seminars involving nearly 1,000 participants and provided advisory services to 26 countries and eight RECs. RPTC funding also provided ECA with the means and operational flexibility to respond to new and emerging development chal-

lenges in areas as such climate change and support to RECs to address specific issues in the context of the multi-year programme of support.¹

160. With support from RPTC, ECA undertook a high-level multidisciplinary mission to South Sudan, the newest independent State in the region, in an effort to ensure a more holistic approach to the Commission's support to that country. The mission, which mobilized a number of regional advisers and staff, resulted in concrete plans for a coordinated plan of action in support of the national development plan adopted by the Government of South Sudan.

- **United Nations Development Account**

161. The United Nations Development Account is a second funding window for ECA technical cooperation activities. Overall guidance on its use is provided by the General Assembly. Projects submitted for funding must adhere to criteria established by the General Assembly and be in line with the theme proposed for the specific tranche. The theme of the current tranche, approved in 2011, is "Supporting member States to accelerate progress towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the context of the multiple and interrelated development challenges".

162. During the period under review, ECA sought to expand its portfolio with four new projects, with a total budget of \$2.6 million approved for funding under the eighth tranche to be implemented during the 2012-2013 programme cycle. Two additional projects, with a total budget of \$1.2 million, are currently being reviewed for possible funding under the current cycle. The eighth tranche projects will address capacity needs of African countries in such areas as risk and disaster management; strengthening civil registration and vital statistics systems; use of renewable energy for sustainable development; development of regional agricultural value chains; women's empowerment; and food security and road safety.

163. In addition, implementation of six projects worth \$3.7 million, approved for funding under the seventh tranche in 2010 will commence in the first quarter of 2012. The projects will address challenges related to the effective integration of developing countries, including African countries, in the global economy through aid for trade; mainstreaming climate change into agricultural policies for food security in West Africa; promoting effective management of shared

water resources in the SADC region; mainstreaming natural disaster risk reduction into poverty reduction strategies; promoting sustainable social development in North Africa and promoting public-private partnerships for improved service delivery and infrastructure development. ECA is also participating in the implementation of a number of interregional projects led by other Regional Commissions or the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs addressing issues in the areas of climate change; social protection; energy security; statistics; and MDGs.

164. In terms of results, the Development Account has been instrumental in strengthening national and regional capacities for addressing key development challenges in such areas as capital markets development in Africa; statistics; land policy reforms; knowledge sharing for meeting the MDGs; and sustainable agriculture and rural transformation.

¹ More detailed information on specific technical cooperation activities as well as main achievements can be found online at www.uneca.org/

CHAPTER II

Issues Arising from the Meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission, Including the Inter-governmental Committees of Experts

165. This chapter contains a summary of the discussions, decisions, resolutions and major recommendations of the subsidiary bodies which have held their statutory meetings since the last session of the Commission in March 2011. It highlights key issues and recommendations from the meetings of the subsidiary bodies which are to be brought to the attention of the annual session of the Commission. It also includes a preview of meetings that were planned but had not taken place at the time of finalization of this report.

166. A review of the Commission's intergovernmental machinery undertaken in 2007 resulted in the elimination of overlapping bodies and a more streamlined structure aligned with the ECA programme orientation. Accordingly, the intergovernmental machinery of ECA now consists of organs focused on overall development issues at the subregional and regional levels and several expert-level subsidiary bodies as follows:

167. Organs dealing with overall development issues

a) The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, together with its Committee of Experts, is the principal legislative organ of the Commission. It meets annually in ordinary session to discuss development issues of importance to Africa and provide guidance to the work of the ECA secretariat. Since 2008, the annual session of the Commission has been organized jointly with the AU Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance to ensure coherence in addressing development issues of common concern to member States.

b) An Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) provides guidance for the work of the ECA subregional office in each of the five subregions of the continent. It meets annually and reports to the annual session of the Commission through its Committee of Experts. The meetings of the ICEs provide a forum for reviewing the economic and social conditions prevailing in each of the subregions and recommending

policies, strategies and programmes aimed at accelerating growth and development within the context of regional integration in each of the subregions.

168. *Functional and sectoral subsidiary organs of the Commission*

- (a) Committee on Women and Development
- (b) Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology
- (c) Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development
- (d) Committee on Human and Social Development
- (e) Committee on Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration
- (f) Committee on Governance and Popular Participation
- (g) Committee on Statistics

169. The sectoral bodies meet in ordinary session once every two years and report to the annual session of the Commission through its Committee of Experts. The meetings of these bodies bring together policymakers and other stakeholders, including development experts, to inform and guide the work of ECA in various sectors.

170. Several subsidiary bodies of the Commission held their statutory meetings during the period under review. The main outcomes of the meetings are summarized below.

1. Twenty-seventh meeting of the ICE for North Africa

171. The twenty-seventh meeting of the ICE for North Africa was held in Rabat, Morocco, from 6 to 9 March 2012. The meeting was organized by the ECA subregional office for North Africa in collaboration with the Government of Morocco on the theme "Unleashing Africa's potential as a pole of global growth: The role of North Africa". The meeting was opened by the Minister of the Economy and Finance

of Morocco and the Secretary-General of the Arab Maghreb Union. High-level representatives of the seven member States as well as representatives of various international and regional organizations, including members of the United Nations country team in Morocco, civil-society organizations, the private sector, and academic and research institutions, participated in the meeting. Youth representatives from member States were invited as special guests to keep up the momentum set in Tunis during the North Africa Development Forum in December 2011.

172. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss recent developments and trends in socio-economic conditions in North Africa, in order to formulate recommendations for policies and strategies for sustainable development and enhanced regional integration in the subregion. Several issues were discussed in the light of reports presented by the subregional office, including: (a) the development of macroeconomic and social indicators in 2010-2011 and the outlook for regional integration in North Africa; (b) a report on the implementation of a multi-year programme of cooperation between ECA and the Arab Maghreb Union; (c) a report on the status of implementation of the MDGs and other regional and international agendas including the special initiatives in North Africa; (d) the report of an ad hoc expert meeting on "Rio+20: Progress and issues for North Africa" held prior to the ICE meeting; and (e) the annual report on the activities of ECA in North Africa and the 2012 work programme of the office.

173. To unleash the potential for growth in North Africa, the Committee recommended the following: (a) greater economic diversification through the development of new markets and dynamic sectors with high added value, to support sustainable growth and decent and long-term job creation, especially for young people; (b) incorporation of training on citizenship in education systems in order to unleash individual energies for more inclusive development; (c) improvement of the investment climate through the adoption of a systemic and non-segmented approach which ensures greater consistency; and (d) continued investment in information technology for development to promote more efficient public services, support education reform and enhance the competitiveness of the economy. The Committee requested ECA to further analyse the potential of North Africa in terms of high value added production and to support member States in transition in their efforts to ensure new growth dynamics. It also endorsed the recommendations made by the group of experts on Rio+20 calling for effective follow-up to the outcome

and recommendations of the Forum on youth and development held in Tunis in December 2011.

174. The Committee noted the need to accelerate action under North Africa's regional integration agenda, and recommended: (a) more systematic mainstreaming of a regional integration dimension in national development policies built on concrete and realistic goals; (b) provision of reliable data by member States to ECA and the Arab Maghreb Union in order to improve the work of the two organizations and strengthen the Regional Integration Observatory; (c) efforts to accelerate the formulation of the Maghreb development strategy for renewable energy through regional programmes; (d) promotion of intraregional trade in environmental goods and services; and (e) accelerated implementation of the Maghreb agricultural strategy for 2030, its action plan and the subregional programme for the fight against desertification, and incorporation of climate risks in food security strategies.

175. The Committee expressed appreciation for the quality of the work of the subregional office, and endorsed all the recommendations made in the statutory reports. It called on ECA to assist the Arab Maghreb Union in establishing a unit on statistics within the Union's secretariat, and in operationalizing the free-trade area among its member countries. The relevance of the theme of the meeting to the theme of the forthcoming ECA Conference of Ministers to be held at the end of March 2012 was welcomed as offering an opportunity for the countries of the subregion to agree on a common position that would inform the discussion at the regional level.

2. Preview of the fifteenth meeting of the ICE for West Africa

176. The fifteenth meeting of the ICE for West Africa will be held on 15 and 16 March 2012 in Bamako, Mali, hosted by the Government of Mali. The theme will be "Harnessing agricultural potential for growth and development in West Africa". The meeting will provide an opportunity for policymakers and other stakeholders to discuss how best the countries of the subregion can exploit their abundant agricultural potential as a springboard for accelerated sustainable socio-economic growth and development, in line with the aspirations of ECOWAS Vision 2020.

177. The Committee will also review subregional socio-economic developments in 2011 and the prospects for 2012, and the progress made in West Africa with respect to the attainment of the Millen-

nium Development Goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Participants will share national experience in agricultural development and recommend strategies to accelerate the development of the agricultural sector in order to address the problems of food insecurity, poverty and underdevelopment.

178. The ECOWAS Commission will present a progress report on the implementation of the ECOWAS agricultural policy and the Regional Agricultural Investment Programme, two key instruments for the operationalization of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme in the subregion. Similarly, the Commission of UEMOA will report on the implementation of its agricultural policy. Both presentations will highlight the national and subregional challenges, and make recommendations to accelerate the further development of these initiatives. In addition, a two-day ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on regional value chains for agricultural development in West Africa will be held prior to the ICE meeting, and its recommendations will feed into the Committee's discussions.

3. Twenty-eighth meeting of the ICE for Central Africa

179. The twenty-eighth meeting of the ICE for Central Africa was held in Brazzaville, the Congo, from 29 February to 2 March 2012, on the theme "Energy challenges in Central Africa". The meeting was organized by the ECA subregional office for Central Africa in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of the Congo, and was opened by the Congolese Minister of State for Planning and the Economy and the ECA Executive Secretary. High-level representatives from 10 Central African countries and from regional economic communities, as well as representatives of various international organizations, including the United Nations country team in the Congo, civil society organizations, the private sector, and academic and research institutions, attended the meeting.

180. The objective of the meeting was to discuss current and emerging challenges in the subregion, with particular focus on the challenges in the energy sector. The meeting also considered a number of statutory issues related to the work of the subregional office with a view to strengthening regional integration in the Central African subregion. Several reports were presented at the meeting by the subregional office, which formed the basis for the Committee's deliberations, including notably: (a) the report on social

and economic conditions in Central Africa; (b) the report on energy challenges in Central Africa; (c) the status of ICT in the subregion; (d) the implementation of regional and international agendas, including NEPAD and the MDGs; and (e) the annual report on the activities of ECA in Central Africa.

181. On the theme of the meeting, the ICE addressed several issues related to the implementation and financing of common electrification programmes and projects in the subregion, and recommended the following: (a) member States should use the Central African Power Pool, a specialized body of ECCAS, as a common mechanism to develop energy-related infrastructures in the subregion; (b) member States and regional economic communities should harmonize and coordinate their energy development programmes and projects; (c) member States should take into account and internalize the concepts of the green economy and renewable energies in addressing energy sector challenges; and (d) member States should harness the existing hydroelectric, solar and wind power potential, and improve cooperation on transboundary water and energy resources. The Committee took note of the priority programmes of CEMAC and ECCAS, as well as recent major initiatives of ECA.

4. Sixteenth meeting of the ICE for Eastern Africa

182. The sixteenth meeting of the ICE for Eastern Africa was held from 13 to 17 February 2012 in Dar es Salaam, the United Republic of Tanzania. It was organized by the subregional office for Eastern Africa in collaboration with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, on the theme "Harnessing the potential of the African Peer Review Mechanism to advance mineral resources governance in Africa".

183. The Committee discussed several issues related to the mandate and operations of the subregional office, including a review of recent social and economic developments in the subregion within the context of the theme of the meeting. Among the reports dealing with thematic and statutory issues considered by the Committee were the annual report on the work of ECA in Eastern Africa for 2011, including the status of implementation of multi-year programmes; a report on the performance of the subregional office for 2010-2011; and a progress report on macroeconomic and social development in the implementation of international agendas, including NEPAD, the MDGs and other special initiatives, in the subregion in 2011. Discussions on the status of regional integration in the subregion benefited from a high-level

panel discussion on the subject. The Committee also exchanged views on the forthcoming Joint AU-ECA Conference of Ministers to be held in Addis Ababa at the end of March 2012.

184. Two ad hoc Expert Group Meetings were organized on the margins of the ICE meeting to review two non-recurrent publications “Towards a common currency in the East African Community (EAC) region: issues, challenges and prospects”; and “Natural resources and conflict management: the case of land”.

185. On the theme of the meeting, the Committee underscored the need for an effective subregional policy framework for sustainable development and management of mineral resources in East African countries. It noted that the APRM could provide a robust mechanism for effective management of Africa’s mineral resources to secure inclusive growth and structural transformation of African economies. Other recommendations adopted by the Committee related to the need for better understanding of the socioeconomic conditions prevailing in the subregion, especially the key drivers of growth; the need to strengthen regional integration in the subregion; and the need for effective partnerships between the subregional office, RECs, intergovernmental organizations, member States and others in responding to the needs and priorities of member States in the subregion. The SRCM for United Nations system-wide support to RECs and intergovernmental organizations in Eastern and Southern Africa could provide a framework for such collaboration.

5. Eighteenth meeting of the ICE for Southern Africa

186. The eighteenth meeting of the ICE for the Southern Africa subregion was held in Port Louis, Mauritius, on 1 and 2 March 2012. The meeting was organized back-to-back with an ad hoc Expert Group Meeting on the theme, “Harnessing natural resources for sustainable development in Southern Africa: opportunities and challenges in the tourism sector”. The meeting was attended by 17 experts from member States in the subregion in the fields of private sector development, tourism and development planning, as well as representatives of various international, regional and subregional organizations, including UNDP, the AUC, COMESA, UNEP and various ECA divisions.

187. The main objective of the meeting was to review the current economic and social situation in the subregion and examine statutory issues related to the man-

date and programmes of the subregional office. The Committee considered four sessional reports prepared and presented by the secretariat on: (a) programme performance of the Southern Africa office; (b) a progress report on the implementation of regional and international agendas, including NEPAD and other special initiatives in the subregion: food security in Southern Africa; (c) economic and social conditions in Southern Africa and prospects for 2013; and (d) recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on “Harnessing natural resources for sustainable development in Southern Africa: opportunities and challenges in the tourism sector”.

188. The Committee observed that Southern Africa had enormous tourism potential characterized by immense natural resource endowments, diverse cultures, rich biodiversity, ecosystems, wildlife, favourable weather and transboundary parks. It noted, however, that the full potential of the continent’s tourism resources had yet to be realized owing to a number of factors. It underscored the need for harmonized regional standards and coordinated national policies, and called upon member States to link infrastructure development to tourism sector development. The Committee recommended that member States should find creative ways to mobilize resources to address the nexus between climate change and sustainable tourism. It also acknowledged the role of local communities as critical for a viable and sustainable tourism sector and recommended the use of public and private partnerships to channel investment towards the development and marketing of tourism products in the subregion.

189. The Committee adopted the following recommendations for the consideration of the ECA Conference of Ministers and member States: member States should continue to prioritize economic diversification and the structural shift of their economies away from dependence on primary products; they should identify alternative and evidence-based strategies for accelerating economic growth in the subregion; they should carry out a realistic assessment of the potential of each country of the region as a growth pole; they should strengthen regional economic groupings as drivers of the regional integration process in Africa; and they should adopt measures to enhance investment in the tourism sector, including building institutions that support investment in the sector and ensuring an investor-friendly climate.

190. The Committee expressed concern at the decline in participation in the ICE meetings in recent years as well as the fact that its meetings had been hosted by only a few member States. It requested the secre-

tariat to communicate to all the member States its recommendation that the annual ICE meetings should be hosted in rotation by all the member States and seek their endorsement of the recommendation. In a similar vein, the Committee underscored the need for more interaction and a close working relationship between the bureau of the ICE and the secretariat so as to ensure better participation in future meetings.

6. Seventh meeting of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development

191. The seventh meeting of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development was held in conjunction with the Africa Regional Preparatory Conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and took place from 20 to 25 October 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting, organized by ECA, AfDB and AU, was an opportunity to deliberate on the themes and objectives of Rio+20, agree on a consensus statement and adopt a draft resolution on Africa's effective participation at Rio+20. Over 250 delegates from member States, regional and subregional organizations, United Nations agencies, Major Groups and intergovernmental organizations attended the meeting and participated in both the expert and ministerial segments.

192. During the expert segment, participants discussed progress in implementing the work plan of ECA in the area of food security and sustainable development for the biennium 2010-2011, and reviewed progress reports on implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the development of strategic agricultural commodity value chains, and food security in Africa.

193. As part of the Africa regional preparatory process for Rio+20, the meeting of experts considered an Africa regional review report as well as reports on new and emerging challenges; the green economy in the context of sustainable development; institutional and strategic frameworks for sustainable development; international environmental governance; and means of implementation.

194. The meeting resulted in a set of practical and action-oriented recommendations on the different thematic areas aimed at advancing Africa's sustainable development agenda, and provided inputs on key priorities and concerns which were subsequently reflected in the Consensus Statement adopted at the ministerial meeting.

195. Participants supported the concept of a green economy, with the caveat that it needed more definition. They agreed that the shift to a green economy should not result in protectionism or trade conditionalities, that there was a need for enabling environments, and that sustainable land management should be a part of the green economy framework. There was also broad agreement on the need for strengthened institutional frameworks for sustainable development, and general support for the strengthening of UNEP.

196. On means of implementation, the Committee agreed to a number of objectives including ensuring improved environmental governance, transparency and accountability. It called on the international community to meet existing commitments, such as the doubling of aid to Africa.

197. Overall, there was strong agreement that the African continent could achieve a favourable outcome at Rio+20 and ensure that the relevant issues were addressed only by speaking with "one" regional voice. There was some concern among delegates as to which organizations and initiatives formed part of the sustainable development framework and which issues were impeding progress on sustainable development. However, at the end of the day, the will to reach an agreement prevailed and ensured that the issues most pertinent to Africa were included in the Consensus Statement, which will be submitted to the Rio+20 Preparatory Committee at the end of March 2012. The Africa Consensus Statement on Rio+20 was endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at the AU Summit in January 2012.

7. Second meeting of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology

198. The second meeting of the Committee on Development Information, Science and Technology (CODIST-II) on the theme "Innovation for Africa's industrial development" was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa from 2 to 5 May 2011. The meeting brought together over 500 participants representing the governments of several member States and development partners, including the private sector and private foundations. The meeting adopted new guidelines for the development and strengthening of innovation systems in Africa.

199. The meeting reviewed the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of

CODIST-I on scientific innovation and the knowledge economy. CODIST-II also reviewed the achievements and challenges, and provided guidance on the work of ECA, in the areas of ICT, STI, geoinformation, and library and information services.

200. A major highlight of CODIST-II was the 2011 Technology in Government in Africa awards ceremony, which was organized by ECA and the Government of Finland, and sponsored by several public and private organizations. The awards aim to encourage the use of ICT by African governments in fulfilling their public service delivery obligations and recognize outstanding work in developing ICT applications that have revolutionized the life of citizens in fields such as health care, education, water, sanitation services or the operations of the business community. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the launch of a number of new initiatives, including the African Inter-Parliamentary Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation; the African Technology Development and Transfer Network for Africa's industrial development; Innovation Diffusion in Africa through Open Access Publishing; Exploiting Geospatial Data Resources for Planning in Africa; and Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for the Knowledge Economy in Africa.

8. Seventh meeting of the Committee on Women and Development

201. The seventh meeting of the Committee on Women and Development was held from 17 to 20 May 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Nearly 150 participants attended the meeting, including experts from gender and women's affairs ministries, RECs, United Nations agencies, the AUC, NPCA and AfDB.

202. The meeting provided a platform for member States to discuss and share experiences with regard to the implementation of the Banjul Declaration on Violence against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action. Strategies for promoting gender equality and tracking the progress of African countries in the area of women's human rights were also discussed. In light of the political events in North Africa, and the developments in countries such as Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa, the Committee also focused attention on the role of women in peacebuilding initiatives in the two regions.

203. Several significant side events were held as part of the meeting. The Africa *UNiTE Campaign to End*

Violence against Women and Girls was launched as a demonstration of the United Nations Secretary-General's commitment to the protection of women. In addition, the e-Network of National Gender Mechanisms and Mechanisms in Africa and the African Women's Rights Observatory were reviewed. A draft report on recent trends in national mechanisms for gender equality was also presented, which provided a situation analysis of the status of national mechanisms in 53 African countries over the past five years.

9. Third meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa

204. The third meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa III) was held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 17 to 23 January 2012 on the theme "Harmonizing statistics in support of economic, monetary and social integration in Africa". Representatives from national statistical offices, statistical training centres, statistical associations and development partners attended the meeting.

205. The meeting discussed several emerging issues in the area of statistics and statistical development, including ongoing efforts in support of the monitoring and evaluation of progress made by African countries with regard to the integration process in Africa. StatCom-Africa III endorsed a five-year regional programme for the implementation of the System of National Accounts, 2008. The meeting also considered progress reports on the activities of various StatCom-Africa working groups and adopted key recommendations on data management, development indicators, gender statistics, harmonization of statistics in support of regional integration, the informal sector, national accounts, civil registration and vital statistics, agricultural statistics, environmental statistics and climate change, geography and statistics, statistical applications for poverty reduction, social inclusion and social protection. The meeting also underscored the need for statistical training infrastructure and coordination as priority areas requiring sustained attention.

206. The meeting requested the ECA secretariat to prepare a list of items for consideration by StatCom-Africa IV in January 2014, in close consultation with major players on the continent and based on emerging priorities from, among others, the African Statistical Coordination Committee, the ECA Conference of Ministers, the Forum on African Statistical Development and the United Nations Statistical Commission.

10. Second meeting of the Committee on Governance and Popular Participation

207. The second meeting of the Committee on Governance and Popular Participation was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 9 to 10 March 2011. The meeting was convened by the Governance and Public Administration Division of ECA and attended by representatives from 36 member States, international organizations, civil-society organizations, non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector. The Committee provides a forum for discussion on issues related to strengthening good governance and participatory development in Africa. It oversees the work of ECA in the areas of governance and public administration, private sector development, strengthening of civil society and support to APRM implementation.

208. The Committee endorsed the proposed programme of work of the Governance and Public Administration Division for the biennium 2012-2013 and a number of important recommendations arising from the work of the Division in the biennium 2010-2011. The recommendations focused on the need to improve the relevance of the programme on governance and public administration and the partnership with regional, subregional and national institutions, including non-State actors and development partners, to better enhance national capacity in support of the APRM process; and to review and adopt the new Statutes of the Committee. The recommendations of the meeting will enable ECA to scale up its activities in these areas and sharpen its analytical work, advisory services, and technical assistance to member States at regional, subregional and national levels.

11. Seventh meeting of the Committee on Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration

209. The seventh meeting of the Committee on Trade, Regional Cooperation and Integration took place from 2 to 3 June 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was attended by senior officials and experts from ministries responsible for regional cooperation and integration, representatives of the AUC, NPCA, RECs, corridor management institutions, United Nations system organizations, the World Bank, civil-society organizations and the private sector. The

meeting was preceded by an ad hoc Expert Group Meeting and workshop on the establishment of inter-REC free-trade areas and harmonization of free-trade regimes among the RECs, held from 31 May to 1 June 2011. Drawing on the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting, the Committee reviewed policy options and measures needed to accelerate the process for the establishment of a continental free-trade area in Africa and pave the way for rapid progress towards the establishment of the Continental Customs Union and the African Common Market in accordance with the vision of the Abuja Treaty.

210. The meeting reviewed progress made on regional integration in Africa as well as recent developments on infrastructure and natural resources development. Other issues discussed by the meeting include international trade, with particular emphasis on economic partnership agreements, Aid for Trade and WTO negotiations, and their implications for Africa's integration agenda.

12. Second meeting of the Committee on Human and Social Development

211. The second meeting of the Committee on Human and Social Development was held on 18 and 19 October 2011, under the theme "Implementing social policy for sustainable development". The meeting was attended by 90 participants from 36 member States, comprising senior government officials and experts from ministries responsible for social affairs, health and youth.

212. The meeting reviewed several thematic reports on maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS, international migration, population and development, youth and development, and social protection; as well as the *Africa Youth Report 2011: Addressing the youth education and employment nexus in the new global economy*.

213. The Committee noted that greater efforts were required to translate Africa's economic growth opportunities into improving the quality of lives of citizens, with special emphasis on investing in social sectors and strengthening social policies, including social protection. The Committee made the following recommendations for presentation and consideration by the Joint AUC-ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development: (a) the Chairperson of the Bureau should be present at the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and

Economic Development; and (b) each member of the Bureau should attend statutory meetings in their relevant subregions to ensure that human and social development issues are given adequate attention at the subregional level.

CHAPTER III

Programme Support

214. In 2011, ECA made steady progress in its efforts to bring about a new culture of doing business and achieving results for greater organizational effectiveness and accountability, in line with the principles of results-based management (RBM). This chapter contains information on the measures taken to build a more transparent, accountable and results-based organization, with particular focus on strengthening operational and strategic planning, improving administrative processes and enhancing partnerships and technical cooperation.

A. Programme management

Strengthening strategic planning and enhancing results-based management and quality

215. During the past year, ECA took concrete steps to enhance strategic planning both within the organization and across the region. Internally, a collective and inclusive approach to programme development was instituted. Following a number of strategic planning rounds and bilateral working meetings held with other ECA divisions and subregional offices during the year, the Office of Strategic Planning and Programme Management (OPM) prepared a Strategic Framework and Biennial Programme Plan for 2014-2015, which set out proposed strategic priorities for the next biennium. The formulation of expected results, targets and indicators was improved in the course of several meetings in order to make them more relevant to the programmes of work.

216. As part of efforts to continuously monitor programme implementation, a programme performance and management review meeting was convened by the Executive Secretary in September 2011 to discuss and assess the performance of the programmes for the first 18 months of the 2010-2011 biennium in terms of (a) synergy among subprogrammes; (b) dissemination of analytical products, strategies and policy recommendations; (c) contribution of ECA to major initiatives;

(d) quality assurance in respect of the Commission's analytical and advisory products; (e) awareness of services provided by ECA in member States; (f) the commitment of member States to ECA undertakings with a view to fostering ownership and strengthening impact; and (g) efficient use of resources.

217. With a view to institutionalizing the culture of results, ECA organized two training workshops on RBM and monitoring and evaluation during the course of the year. The first one, in November 2011, targeted staff members of the ECA subregional office for Southern Africa and the COMESA secretariat. The second, held in December 2011 in Addis Ababa, was organized for ECA staff drawn from headquarters divisions and other subregional offices. The objectives of the training were: (a) to help managers and focal points to gain a better understanding of the RBM framework; (b) to provide managers and RBM focal points with the skills needed to use the RBM frameworks effectively in their activities; (c) to continue mainstreaming RBM within ECA; and (d) to equip trainees with necessary skills in RBM before embarking on the strategic framework exercise.

218. In addition to pursuing continued improvements in programme planning during the year, ECA made efforts to strengthen the evaluation of programmes and projects. An evaluation guideline is being finalized that is consistent with United Nations standards and will serve as a mechanism for improving effectiveness and accountability. Similarly, ECA is preparing to undertake strategic comprehensive evaluations covering the full scope of the Commission's programme of work, focusing on the linkage between programme objectives, expected accomplishments, the work plan and its impact.

219. Building on the work started in 2010 to establish an effective and credible quality assurance system for its products and services, ECA launched its pilot programme on quality assurance with a review of the *African Governance Report*. An independent panel of experts from various organizations was convened to

review the process for preparing the Report, including its impact on policymaking. The review identified areas of strengths and areas of potential improvement which will be factored into the preparation of the next edition.

B. Administration

Improving administrative and business processes for effective programme delivery

220. Several milestones were reached in 2011 as part of ongoing efforts to continuously improve programme support services in areas such as human and financial resources management, general services, information technology services and publications and conference services.

221. A key initiative implemented in the past year was the decentralization of administrative services to the five subregional offices to improve programme delivery in the field by improving overall efficiency in the delivery of these services. In addition, authority for decision-making regarding some administrative services was also delegated – a key prerequisite for the successful implementation of results-based budgeting and management. To strengthen the capacity of the subregional offices, the level of staffing was increased, capacity-building missions were undertaken to the various offices, and information and communication systems were improved to support the delegation of authority. This has empowered staff in those offices to participate and to be fully accountable for the delivery of results.

222. Despite the challenges faced by ECA in recruiting and retaining competent staff, commendable progress was achieved following an aggressive recruitment campaign – a number of vital vacant posts were filled, thereby reducing the overall vacancy rate and bringing it closer to the acceptable level of 5 per cent set by the United Nations Headquarters. In addition, measures were taken to improve staff welfare and maintain a working environment that is both safe and secure. A number of campaigns were conducted for the benefit of staff and their dependents, in such areas as HIV/AIDS, cancer, diabetes and metabolic diseases, to increase awareness as part of preventive care.

223. Similarly, measures were taken to improve performance management and accountability for the delivery of results, culminating in increased use of

the electronic Performance Appraisal System (ePAS) across divisions and subregional offices.

224. The Office of Internal Oversight Services has provided ECA with essential guidance on the gaps in service that need to be filled in order to improve organizational effectiveness in all areas of its work. It is worth noting that the ECA achieved a 97 per cent rate of implementation of recommendations made by the Office in the previous biennium.

225. Improvements in technology and the use of ICTs continue to facilitate the organization's work processes and impact positively on productivity. During the period under review, connectivity has been significantly improved, with stable Internet access and data communication. An increased number of staff are now able to work from their homes and when on mission. The introduction of a number of eAdministration systems dealing with issues such as leave, salaries, advances, staff clearance and education grants has increased efficiency and quality in administrative processes – not to mention the reduction in paper use, which has lowered costs and furthered the agenda of a “paperless United Nations”. These systems have made it substantially easier to monitor and control administrative work flows, leading to an overall improvement in client satisfaction.

226. A project to improve archives and record management was also initiated in 2011 to support knowledge sharing within the organization as part of the ECA knowledge management strategy. As part of the organization's business continuity plan, a Disaster Recovery Site has been set up in Nairobi, Kenya.

227. As a contribution to sharing knowledge and reducing duplication of effort, thus promoting the effective use of resources, a concerted effort was made to increase collaboration within the organization. For instance, the second performance report for the biennium 2010-2011 and the 2012-2013 budget proposals were prepared through a collaborative and consultative effort aimed at reinforcing and complementing RBM.

228. Overall, budget performance improved during the year with the increased focus on results and the improved alignment of the budget with programme delivery. The increase in extrabudgetary resources as complementary funds to the regular budget allocations has also enabled the organization to improve the alignment of its resources with its long-term objectives.

C. Financial resource mobilization and management

Enhancing partnerships and technical cooperation

229. Mobilizing extrabudgetary resources to support the Commission's operational activities through technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives is vital for delivering results and maximizing the impact of its work on Africa's socio-economic development. In this regard, ECA has made significant progress in forging equitable partnerships based on mutual accountability and common interests. During the period under review, accountability, both upward and downward, was enhanced through dialogue, increased transparency, timely reporting and regular project performance monitoring and review meetings with partners. ECA also continued to witness notable improvements in its relationship with existing partners and in developing partnerships with a wide range of new partners.

230. The ECA Partners Forum continued to serve as the main platform for dialogue between the Commission and its partners on issues of common concern. The Forum met twice during the past year to discuss progress in delivering the ECA work programme and new priority initiatives in the areas of climate change, trade, regional integration and other emerging development priorities for Africa, as well as other key priorities contained in the ECA Business Plan for 2010-2012. The Forum also discussed proposals for more flexible funding of budget support.

231. Another important event held during the year was the second AUC-ECA-AfDB Strategic Partners Dialogue, held in Addis Ababa in April 2011, which provided an opportunity for the three institutions to meet senior officials and representatives from the following partner countries and organizations: EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, COMESA, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States of America; European Union and League of Arab States.

232. The Dialogue serves as a platform for policymakers to engage with the leadership of the three pan-African institutions to foster better understanding of

the strategic interests of all parties. The main outcome of the second Dialogue was a communiqué calling on the AUC, AfDB and ECA to exert sustained efforts in achieving sustainable results, particularly for African countries, in the ongoing Doha Round of trade negotiations; improving the sustainable mobilization of the resources of pan-African institutions to finance development and growth; and promoting regional and continental infrastructure for integration and growth. The communiqué also called on the three organizations to continue to use RBM as a means to enhance programme support by clearly defining responsibilities at both programmatic and operational levels and enhancing effective communication among the three institutions. The outcomes of the second Dialogue and similar meetings have helped to enhance programme implementation and delivery, strengthen partners' confidence and promote greater accountability and transparency in the Commission's trust fund operations. Building on the success of previous meetings, the third Dialogue will be held in November 2012 under the overall theme "The African Union 10 years hence – deepening partnerships in support of Africa's development agenda".

233. To further enhance oversight in the management of extrabudgetary resources and ensure integrated planning, budgeting and management of core and extrabudgetary resources, ECA established an Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters in 2006. The Committee oversees the management and allocation of extrabudgetary resources, with the same due diligence as for regular budget resources, ensuring that the distribution of extrabudgetary resources is linked to strategic ECA and donor priorities, and encouraging joint programme implementation. The Committee is chaired by the Deputy Executive Secretary and meets regularly; several meetings were held during the period under review.

234. As the Commission looks forward to renewing existing partnerships and building new ones, work has already begun on the preparation of a new business plan covering the period 2013-2015. The three-year plan will identify key priority areas where the Commission plans to further deepen its work and mobilize additional resources to supplement the regular budget. The plan will also highlight achievements and challenges in the implementation of the Business Plan for 2010-2012.

235. During the reporting period, ECA signed funding support agreements amounting to \$19.4 million. The thematic distribution of extrabudgetary resources for the period 2010- 2011 is shown in table 1 below.

Table 1: Thematic distribution of extrabudgetary resources in 2010-2011 (millions of United States dollars)

	2010	2011	Total
Economic development and NEPAD	2.25	1.3	3.55
Regional integration, infrastructure and trade	3.45	5.1	8.55
Promoting good governance and public administration	0.52	2.1	2.62
ICT and science and technology for development	1.33	2.7	4.03
Strengthening statistics and statistical capacity development	0.07	0.8	0.87
Promoting gender equality and social development	0.65	1.2	1.85
Food security and sustainable development	13.03	5.3	18.33
Special events	0.74	0	0.74
Institutional strengthening	0	0.3	0.3
Administration, executive direction and management	0	0.6	0.6
Total	22.04	19.4	41.44



African Economic
Conference 2011



Conference on
African Trade Forum



Conference on
African Network for
Drugs and Innovation
(ANDI)



Conference of Ministers
2011



Regional Coordination
Mechanism



Conference on
Development Informa-
tion Science and Tech-
nology (CODIST)

