

United Nations



**Economic and
Social Council**

E/ECA/COE/34/11

Distr.: General

25 March 2015

Original: English

Economic Commission for Africa

Committee of Experts

Thirty-fourth meeting

**Eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union
Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary
Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration* and the
Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African
Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development**

Meeting of the Committee of Experts

Addis Ababa, 25–27 March 2015

Annual Report 2015

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Introduction by the Executive Secretary

The present report reviews the progress made between April 2014 and March 2015 in implementing the work programme of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), with a focus on the results that have been achieved in support of the development of our member States.

The year under review was one during which ECA worked to consolidate its position on the journey upon which it had embarked in 2013, with the aim of strengthening policy influence in support of Africa's transformation agenda; earning greater credibility and trust through the production of high-quality, evidence-based and good fit policy research and knowledge delivery services; enhancing its accountability mechanisms and deepening the learning culture across all streams of work at the Commission; and strengthening its operational effectiveness to ensure better support for the timely delivery of its knowledge-production and capacity-building services.

A defining feature of 2014 was the adoption by African leaders of key transformative frameworks for the continent's economic and social development, in particular the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the document adopted by the African Union entitled "Common African Position (CAP) on the post 2015 development agenda". ECA engagement with leading pan-African institutions, notably the African Union Commission (AUC), resulted also in the endorsement of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, headed by the former South African President, Thabo Mbeki. ECA collaboration with both AUC and the African Development Bank successfully shaped a consensus on key elements of an accountability framework to accompany the global post-2015 development agenda. At the Commission's ninth African Development Forum over 900 stakeholders from across the African continent adopted the Marrakech Consensus, on innovative financing for Africa's transformation, which promises to exert significant influence in the lead-up to the third International Conference on Finance

ing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015. Similar efforts by ECA and collective approaches helped to inform and strengthen the negotiating positions of the African Group in relation to the post-Bali work programme of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The growing influence of ECA with policymakers is complemented by its rising profile in public discourse on economic policy matters. The body of research and statistics compiled by ECA is increasingly cited in the media and the Commission's reputation in and relationships with African and international scholarly communities are also growing. Its 147 publications and dozens of research papers on such strategic subjects as industrial policy, macroeconomic forecasting, progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, inequality, resource mobilization, private sector development, climate change, and the social and economic impact of the Ebola outbreak, among many others, have been widely distributed, debated and used by policymakers across all member States and regional economic communities. The ECA website received 22.5 million page visits during 2014, compared to 20.5 million over the previous two years combined. In addition, ECA produced 1,300 press releases; its Twitter and Facebook accounts gained 14,800 followers; and ECA videos were viewed online more than 57,000 times.

In 2014, the Commission's credibility rested on policy research that highlighted the need for accelerated industrialization as key to the structural transformation of African economies. The intense focus by ECA on industrialization in Africa, as reflected in the past two issues of the *Economic Report on Africa* – the Commission's annual flagship publication – and also in the 2015 issue, on the theme of "Industrializing through trade" – demonstrate its commitment to ensuring that its policy research and statistics are strategically relevant to the priorities of African governments. ECA placed the theme of the 2014 *Economic Report on Africa* – "Dynamic industrial policy in Africa" –

at the centre of economic policy debates in Africa in 2014. Its pioneering work on the definition of a macroeconomic framework for structural transformation in African economies constituted a key step towards the creation of the kind of Africa-oriented economic forecasting model in such great demand by African governments.

The new industrial policies being developed by several member States and regional economic communities have all benefited from the research, statistics and debates generated by the focus which ECA has brought to bear on this critical subject. Similarly, its work on other priority subjects has enhanced the Commission's credibility as a dependable research institution and has extended its influence among African economic and financial policymakers.

ECA has demonstrated its commitment to quality research and policy engagement, along with an ability to obtain, analyse and manage new knowledge, data and statistics about Africa that are produced in Africa. The Commission's new data-management protocol and its databank, to be launched soon, along with its new strategies on communications, knowledge management, and information technology, are helping to build its capacity to produce higher quality research to meet the needs of African States.

One of the driving forces behind this system-wide improvement of data and statistics was the transformation, in 2014, of the Commission's five subregional offices into leading data-collection and analysis centres, while retaining their function of assisting member States and regional economic communities with evidence-based policies for economic transformation and regional integration. Through the work of the subregional offices, ECA has prepared over two dozen country profiles – a new geographical headline publication series to be launched in 2015 – which provide nationally sourced data, institutional and policy information on the central theme of economic and structural transformation in Africa, along with forecasts, indicators, policy and risk analyses and recommendations on key social and economic policy issues. ECA country profiles will also add value by providing timely forecasts from an African perspective, in addition to tracking forecasts on Africa by external institutions.

The Commission's capacity-development strategy capitalizes on these institutional improvements to ensure that it better serves the needs of pan-African institutions, regional economic communities and member States. In 2014, ECA successfully coordinated collab-

orative efforts by all United Nations agencies working in Africa through its leadership of the regional coordination mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa). By leveraging the human and financial resources of all parties to RCM-Africa, together with the subregional coordinating mechanisms, ECA facilitated the consolidated provision of support by United Nations agencies for Africa's development priorities, under the "Delivering as one" initiative. ECA is now leading the effort to establish the United Nations programme of support for the African Union's Agenda 2063 and to develop a renewed ten-year capacity-building programme upon the expiry of the present programme in 2016.

In 2014, thus clearly demonstrating how effectively its policy-research and capacitybuilding services complement the endeavours of member States, ECA registered major achievements in boosting intra-African trade, promoting regional economic integration, and building the foundations for a continental free trade area to be accomplished by 2017. The ECA African Trade Policy Centre provided considerable capacity-building support for African States negotiating economic partnership agreements – based upon original research – and navigating other economic relationships focused both on agricultural issues and on mining and natural resources management, in which the AUC-ECA African Mineral Development Centre played a leading role.

ECA also implemented 15 new capacity-building initiatives among member States, aimed at harnessing new technologies and innovations for national and subregional development. By providing assistance to governments across a range of areas, from the integration of information and communications technology into national development plans, to the formulation of evidence-based policy recommendations on ways of achieving sustainable transformation through inclusive green economic agendas, ECA has responded to the increased demand for better information on the impacts of climate change on agriculture, food security and trade. Demonstrating that, by coupling policy research with capacity-building, Africa's voice in critical global forums can be strengthened, the ECA African Climate Policy Centre has played a prominent advocacy role for the African continent in the international debates leading up to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris in November and December 2015.

In its work in 2014 on gender and women in development – another area where policy research, capacity development and advocacy intersect – ECA paved the

way for the 2015 launch by AUC of a continent-wide initiative to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. ECA has helped to ensure a much higher level of reporting by African governments on the implementation of their national, regional and international gender equality obligations: thus, no fewer than 52 African countries have completed their reports for the global twenty-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, to be conducted in 2015. The ECA African Gender and Development Index, which has undertaken country studies of 26 member States, is but one of the ECA knowledge products that have contributed to this positive shift in government performance. Internally, ECA has improved the gender balance in its own staffing and is promoting gender mainstreaming more broadly through all its programme work.

Also in 2014, by creating the African Social Development Index, ECA responded to the need identified by member States for an assessment of the impact of exclusion on social development in Africa. In 2014, the index was tested and validated in five member States and disseminated in collaboration with ECA subregional offices and the regional economic commissions. The ECA initiative on the cost of hunger in Africa, undertaken in collaboration with AUC and the World Food Programme (WFP), produced critical policy recommendations in the eight African countries that implemented country-specific case studies and resulted in the adoption by AUC of specific health-related targets. Both of these ECA-designed projects provided member States with clear evidence-based policy recommendations on social development in their countries that constitute prerequisites for the desired transformation of their economies.

ECA also promoted stronger public sector management in Africa in respect of economic policy planning and analysis through training programmes and policy dialogue initiatives. In 2014, the ECA African Institute for Development and Economic Planning organized 25 training courses benefiting over 500 African civil servants. ECA has also now completed the groundwork for the inauguration in 2015 of two master's degree programmes in development planning.

Overall, in 2014, the Commission's integrated and coherent approach to meeting the needs of member States, regional economic communities and AUC produced high-quality results. ECA has also adopted a more forthright approach to its interactions with key stakeholders in Africa on key development policy priorities and increased their frequency. These interactions project the Commission's key message of "Putting Africa first!"

Shaping an ECA which is fit for purpose – fully able to support Africa's commitment to sustainable, inclusive and transformative development – is at the core of the Commission's agenda. The structural transformation of African economies through industrialization is an imperative, as is the accelerated regional integration of Africa's economies. The importance of the Commission's work in 2014 is evident in the progress that, with its help, Africa has been able to make in meeting both of these top priorities and in preparing for the quantum change in economic development that the continent needs.

Finally, in order to promote accountability and organizational learning within ECA itself, we broke new ground and constructed our own cutting-edge performance management dashboard in 2014, designed to measure progress toward the corporate objectives of policy influence, credibility and trust, accountability and learning, and operational effectiveness. This unique dashboard – along with new annual partner and staff surveys – has become an important tool for measuring corporate performance.

As Executive Secretary, I am proud to say that all the developments covered in this report will help ECA in serving member States' policy priorities and capacity development needs.

I trust that the member States will continue to support us in our efforts.

Carlos Lopes

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

CHAPTER I

Overview of economic and social developments in Africa

1. Despite the weak global economy, Africa's growth prospects remain strong. Over the past decade, Africa has recorded impressive economic growth of 5 per cent on average, making it the second fastest growing region after East and South Asia. Its growth rate rose from 3.7 per cent in 2013 to 3.9 per cent in 2014, and is expected to rise to 4.5 per cent in 2015.

2. Growth is underpinned by improved governance and macroeconomic management, investment in infrastructure, rapid urbanization, a growing middle class and rising aggregate demand, diversified trade and investment ties with emerging economies and improved regional integration and diversified trade partnerships within the region. Africa's growth has also been enhanced by the rebasing of gross domestic product (GDP) in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

3. That said, however, in the medium term, the outlook for the continent could change as a result of the fall in the price of oil and other commodities, instability in the eurozone, slow economic recovery of developed countries, tighter global monetary policies, the Ebola outbreak, weather-related shocks, and political instability in some African countries.

A. Developments in the global economy and the implications for Africa

4. Global growth increased moderately from 2.4 per cent in 2013 to 2.6 per cent in 2014. The potential for higher global growth rates has been dampened by emerging geopolitical tensions in Western Asia and the Crimean peninsula, and the recession in Japan. Global growth is projected to increase to 3.1 per cent in 2015.

5. GDP growth in developing countries slowed from 4.7 per cent in 2013 to 4.4 per cent in 2014, largely because of low growth in Western Asia and

Latin America and the Caribbean, as a consequence of persisting geopolitical tensions in the former region and weak domestic investment demand and deteriorating terms of trade in the latter. Growth was strongest in East and South Asia, where it reached 5.9 per cent, up from 5.8 in 2013.

6. Across the world, the employment sector remains weak. Unemployment decreased from 6 per cent 2013 to 5.9 per cent in 2014. Unemployment in developed economies remains high, at 7.8 per cent. Unemployment also remains high in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, with rates of 10.1 and 6.6 per cent respectively in 2014. Young people are particularly affected, with global youth unemployment dropping only marginally, to 13.0 per cent in 2014, from 13.1 per cent in 2013.

7. The world inflation rate edged up slightly to 3.1 per cent in 2014 from 3.0 per cent in 2013, and is expected to decline to 2.9 per cent in 2015. Inflation remains low in developed countries, particularly in the eurozone, owing to the weak economic recovery and temporary shocks such as the drop in food and energy prices. Low inflation in the eurozone, coupled with persistently high unemployment, continues to present the risk of deflation and a consequent return to the debt crisis and economic uncertainty in Europe. In developing countries, inflation fell from 5.8 per cent in 2013 to 5.7 per cent in 2014, as a result of lower inflation in South Asia, and is expected to decrease still further, to 5.4 per cent in 2015, owing to the fall in global commodity prices and tighter monetary policies.

8. The outlook for 2015 remains uncertain owing to the fragility of the global economic recovery, and in particular that in the eurozone, as evidenced by the lack of improvement in employment and the continuing risk of deflation. Furthermore, the slowing growth rate in China may dampen demand for African exports. Current political tensions in the Crimean peninsula and Western Asia pose a risk for the global

economy as a whole, and may have indirect consequences on Africa by reducing demand from affected trading partners.

B. Africa's economic performance in 2014 and prospects for 2015

9. Africa's growth increased from 3.7 per cent in 2013 to 3.9 per cent in 2014. Only East and South Asia grew faster, at 5.9 per cent. Africa's GDP growth rate is expected to increase to 4.5 per cent in 2015 and 4.8 per cent in 2016. Growth is underpinned by increasing domestic demand, coupled with an improving regional business environment and macroeconomic management, increased public investment especially in infrastructure, a buoyant services sector and growing trade and investment ties with emerging economies.

10. Growth in private consumption and investment, which grew by 3.3 per cent and 1.6 per cent in 2014, down from 3.4 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively in 2013, remain the key driving forces behind GDP growth. Growth in private consumption is underpinned by greater domestic demand due to increased consumer confidence and an expanding middle class. Investment, in the sense of gross capital formation, is being driven primarily by the continent's improved business environment. Increased government spending on infrastructure was also an important factor behind the growth of GDP in 2014. Its contribution is expected to decline to 0.9 percentage points in 2015, owing to fiscal consolidation measures, mostly in Central, Southern and West Africa.

11. African oil-exporting countries (with the exception of Libya) grew faster than other African countries in 2014, at a rate of 4.7 per cent, up from 4.4 per cent in 2013. Despite falling oil prices, the growth of this group of countries is expected to continue in 2015, with growth of 5.2 per cent due to the recovery of growth in consumption and investment.

12. Growth in oil-importing countries is expected to improve slightly, to 3.8 per cent in 2015, after stagnating at 3.3 per cent in 2013 and 2014, thanks to low oil prices and increased consumer and business confidence. Private consumption and investment are expected to grow by 4.1 per cent and 2.8 per cent respectively in 2015.

13. At the subregional level, Central Africa's growth momentum is expected to continue. After accelerat-

ing from 2.5 per cent in 2013 to 4.3 per cent in 2014, growth is expected to rise still further, to 4.8 per cent in 2015, driven by strong public spending on capital intensive infrastructure projects in Cameroon and the Congo, and new oil and gas developments in Cameroon and Chad.

14. Strengthened regional integration in the East African Community has continued to boost GDP growth in the subregion in 2014. After remaining flat at 6.5 per cent in 2013 and 2014, growth is expected to increase to 6.8 per cent in this subregion in 2015. Djibouti, Kenya, and Uganda will continue to be the key drivers of growth in 2015. Djibouti's growth is underpinned by considerable investment in the country's port capacity, driven by strong demand for port services from Ethiopia. Rapid expansion in the banking and telecommunication services, a growing middle class, urbanization, and investment in infrastructure, in particular railways, is stimulating growth in Kenya, while Uganda's growth is underpinned by increasing activity in sectors such as construction, financial services, transport and telecommunications.

15. Growth in North Africa (excluding Libya) has failed to recover despite improving political stability in Tunisia. Growth fell slightly, from 2.8 per cent in 2013 to 2.7 per cent in 2014. Weak oil prices, continued political instability in Egypt, and tight monetary policies in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and the Sudan were the main constraints on growth. Growth is expected to improve in 2015, however, as more stability returns to Egypt, the subregion's largest economy. GDP growth is also expected to be supported by growth in government expenditure on infrastructure projects in the subregion.

16. Southern Africa is expected to experience accelerated GDP growth, from 2.9 per cent in 2014 to 3.6 in 2015, driven by increased investment in the non-diamond sector in Botswana, the recovery of private consumption in South Africa, and increased investment in mining and natural gas exploration in Mozambique. Furthermore, GDP growth is expected to be supported by the acceleration in private consumption amid growing consumer confidence in the countries of the subregion. The slowdown in oil and mineral prices poses a continued threat to the subregion's medium term growth prospects, however, given that two thirds of the countries are mineral-rich or oil-exporting.

17. West Africa grew by 5.9 per cent in 2014, up one percentage point from 2013. The subregion's growth is expected to accelerate to 6.2 per cent in

2015, driven primarily by rising private consumption and investment, in particular in Cabo Verde, Nigeria and Senegal. In 2015, private consumption and investment in the subregion are expected to grow at 3.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent, respectively, an increase on the rates for 2014. The services sector in Nigeria is also a key driving force behind growth in West Africa. Some uncertainty persists in the subregion, however, owing to political instability in Mali and Nigeria and the Ebola outbreak, which are expected to be the major internal risks for the West African economies, although recent estimates from ECA suggest that the impact of Ebola on growth will be negligible.

C. Marginal impact of oil prices on growth

18. Although crude oil prices continued to fall between June and December 2014, with an average monthly decline of 8.0 per cent, the impact on Africa's growth has been marginal. In fact, the low prices helped the continent's GDP to grow by an extra 0.03 per cent, thanks to the positive impact on oil-importing countries and the only marginal negative impact on oil-exporting countries, given the continued depreciation of their local currencies (especially in Angola, Ghana and Nigeria).

19. In addition, the marginal effect of the continued decline in oil prices on growth has been sustained in non-oil sectors, driven by the expansion of services sectors in some countries, such as Kenya and Rwanda, the strengthening of intra-African trade in manufacturing sectors and improved productivity and structural transformation.

D. Negligible economic effect of the Ebola outbreak on Africa's GDP

20. Although the impact of the Ebola outbreak on the GDP of the three most affected countries, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, is significant, the effect on the GDP of the West African subregion and of Africa as a whole is expected to be negligible. This is because Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone together account for only 2.4 per cent and 0.7 per cent of the GDP of West Africa and Africa as a whole, respectively. Forecasts for 2014 and 2015 reveal that growth in West Africa will

be affected by 0.1 percentage point, while the growth of Africa as a whole will be affected by just 0.02 percentage points.

E. Continued decline in inflation

21. Inflation in Africa is expected to continue on the same downward trend that it has been experiencing since 2012. It is expected to stabilize at 6.9 per cent between 2014 and 2015 and to decelerate to 6.7 per cent in 2016.

22. Oil-exporting countries are expected to experience an increase in inflation in 2015 before the rate tips down a little in 2016. Exchange rate depreciation is observed to be the main factor behind rising inflation in oil-exporting countries, with marginal effects on oil-importing and mineral-rich countries, which could be attributed to the effects of falling global oil and commodity prices.

F. Waning of the merchandise trade boom

23. Africa's merchandise exports declined by 2.4 per cent in 2013, after growth of 6.5 per cent in 2012, one of the highest of any region. Growth was mainly driven by exports of fuel and natural resources in their raw form, which accounted for approximately two thirds of total exports. The decline in merchandise exports is the result of the downward trend in the prices of commodities, which are still dominated by natural resources.

24. This underscores the need for Africa to diversify its production and export base by adding value to its commodity exports.

25. In 2013, Africa exported the lowest share of manufactured goods as a percentage of total merchandise exports of any region, at 18.5 per cent, with Asia having the highest share, followed by Europe. Trade in intermediate goods and participation in the high end of global value chains accounted for the high share of manufactured goods in the total exports and imports of merchandise by North America, Europe and Asia. Africa's low export figure is a reflection of its minimal participation in global value chains.

G. Growing private foreign inflows

26. Africa continues to attract more and more private capital thanks to an improved business environment and the increasingly positive corporate sentiment ratings brought about by, for example, regulatory improvements, such as those observed in Mauritius and Rwanda. Foreign direct investment remains a large external source of finance, but was surpassed by remittances in 2010, which are also the most stable source of external financing. Remittances nudged up from 4.4 per cent of GDP in 2013 to 4.5 per cent in 2014, and are expected to increase still further, to 4.6 per cent of GDP in 2015 as more African expatriates seek to invest in their home countries. To leverage this growth in remittances, the continent needs to decrease the cost of sending money back, and develop financial instruments to channel remittances into developmental programmes.

27. Foreign direct investment is the second largest source of external private equity inflows. It increased from \$57.2 billion in 2013 to \$61.1 billion in 2014 and is projected to increase to \$66.9 billion in 2015, equivalent to 3.9 per cent, 4.1 per cent and 4.2 per cent of GDP respectively. Foreign direct investment remains largely concentrated in resource sectors, however, and policies are needed that will diversify it towards the manufacturing sector.

28. Portfolio flows averaged around 1.6 per cent of GDP over the period 2010–2015. They remain volatile as they are often influenced by global monetary policy stances and the political outlooks of developing and emerging countries. They decreased from \$31.6 billion in 2013 to \$24.1 billion in 2014, but are projected to increase to \$25.5 billion in 2015. Despite the slow recovery in developed and emerging economies, both foreign direct investment and portfolio equity flows are expected to continue increasing, underscoring the global private sector's appetite for the continent's opportunities. Frontier markets are key to attracting foreign private capital, bringing in 25.1 and 26.3 per cent of the inflows of total foreign direct investment to Africa in 2013 and 2014, and 90 and 63.2 per cent of its portfolio flows. In 2015, frontier markets are expected to attract 27 and 59 per cent of total foreign direct investment and portfolio flows, respectively.

29. Illicit financial outflows through trade mispricing are widespread in resource-rich economies. Such flows are estimated at almost \$60 billion a year and

grew by 32.5 per cent between 2000 and 2009. Cumulatively, over this period, illicit financial flows were equivalent to nearly all the overseas development assistance received by Africa. Policy interventions through tax incentives and close monitoring could help to curb such flows.

30. Official development assistance will remain a key source of external public finance for many countries. In 2013 and 2014, it accounted for 3.8 per cent and 3.7 per cent of Africa's GDP respectively. The ebb and flow of official development assistance, however, is tied to the often short-term priorities of development partners, which can be driven by non-developmental concerns, including geopolitics and security. This is why Africa must prioritize financing and mobilize resources to achieve structural change.

31. Total foreign debt has been above 30 per cent of GDP since 2010 and is expected to rise to 37.1 per cent of GDP in 2015. It is anticipated that net foreign debt (total debt minus reserves) will be equivalent to 1 per cent of GDP in 2015, having been negative since 2006, owing to high international reserves in oil-exporting economies. Mineral-rich and oil-importing countries have positive net foreign debt, and some extreme cases have very high ratios, raising issues of debt sustainability.

H. Private equity: a new alternative means of raising additional resources

32. Given the debt burden in many African countries and the growing challenges faced by the continent as a result of rapid urbanization, population growth and rising demand for infrastructure, additional resources are required. Private equity could provide part of the solution. Indeed, the countries that have recorded most progress in terms of economic growth over the past decades are also the ones that have attracted the greatest share of private equity capital.

33. The concept of using private equity to raise additional resources is particularly promising for the manufacturing sector in Africa, which is mainly made up of small and medium-sized enterprises. Given the rigidities inherent in financial intermediation in Africa, and the high interest rates charged by banks, private equity could also enhance domestic financing by steering resources towards medium and long-term investment.

34. Over the past decade, private equity investment has risen significantly, with average annual growth of 26 per cent, reflecting an improved and sound business environment. The consumer discretionary (28 per cent), industrial (26 per cent), materials (20 per cent), energy (12 per cent), and financial and information technology (10 per cent) sectors received the highest share of private inflows between 2006 and 2012.

I. Risks and uncertainties surrounding Africa's continued growth

35. Tighter global financial conditions in developed economies might lead to a rise in interest rates, resulting in the outflow of private capital and increased volatility of currencies. This could affect frontier market economies such as Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia, as the reversal of capital flows could weaken their currencies. While controls on capital flows offer a temporary solution, more robust strategies such as adjusting funding strategies and plans and improving the business environment to retain capital, could play a vital role.

36. Political instability, terrorism and violence in a number of African countries will remain a source of concern. All the same, the overall number of armed conflicts in Africa has decreased since 2000, and more initiatives are being undertaken at the continental level to address issues of peace and security.

J. Need to link structural change and social development

37. Africa continues to make steady progress towards social outcomes as measured by the Millennium Development Goals. Poverty has decreased overall on the continent and there have been marked improvements in primary school enrolment. Gender parity at primary school level has been reached by the majority of African countries. Women's representation in parliament now stands at 20 per cent, the second highest rate in the world after Latin America. Health outcomes have also improved, with under-five mortality dropping from 146 to 90 per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2010. In addition, there has been a 1 per cent decline in HIV prevalence from 2001 to 2011.

38. Poverty has declined but inequality permeates African societies and reinforces a vicious circle of inequity, low income and social exclusion. The unequal distribution of assets and uneven access to public services such as education and health care deepens the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

39. In response to a call from its member States, ECA has developed a tool – the African Social Development Index – to assess progress towards increased social inclusion. Following a life-cycle approach, the tool is designed to measure progress in the reduction of human exclusion in six dimensions of well-being, including health, education, employment, and income. The results of the index can be used to identify the root causes of exclusion in each country or subregion, and to assess the impact of social policies on exclusion, thereby improving the effectiveness of social policy targeting.

40. Targeted programmes that alleviate poor health and malnutrition can help to raise educational attainment and productivity, with multiplier effects on growth and development. Potential productivity gains could be even greater if the issues of unequal access to health services across income, gender and location are rectified. Health-related costs hit low-income groups disproportionately and represent one of the main causes of families falling into poverty.

41. Structural transformation is critical for ensuring social inclusion by spurring labour productivity and employment opportunities in developing countries. Central to this is the movement away from low-productive to high-productive activities and from capital-intensive to labour-intensive activities, including manufacturing. In some countries, such as Algeria, Tunisia and South Africa, the decline in the contribution of low-productive agricultural employment, supplemented by a rising share of productive industrial activities, has opened avenues for economic diversification and has increased the competitiveness and integration of these countries' transformed products into global value chains.

42. The employment shift in Africa from agriculture to industry and services is not proceeding as swiftly as it should and most of the new jobs are in the services sector; as a result, over the period 2000–2013, employment in the industrial sector remained stagnant at around 8.4 per cent of the working population. This hampers economic and employment prospects as most services jobs are informal and characterized by low productivity, low wages and poor working conditions. That said, however, the increase

in the number of jobs in high-end services (such as in information and communications technology and financial services) is a positive development which needs to be encouraged across the continent.

43. As the formal sector – both public and private – cannot absorb the swelling tide of job seekers, job creation is concentrated in the informal sector in most African countries. Thus, in 2012, 77.2 per cent of workers in Africa (excluding North Africa) were estimated to be either self-employed or contributing family workers.

44. In terms of gender, informal trade is the most important source of employment among self-employed women in Africa (excluding North Africa), at 60 per cent of non-agricultural employment. Informal cross-border trade in the countries of the Southern African Development Community is worth \$17.6 billion a year and accounts for 30–40 per cent of trade within the Community. Some 70 per cent of the cross-border traders are women.

45. Although informality is mainly used as a coping mechanism, there is considerable scope to harness the potential of the informal sector in Africa through targeted enabling policies that expand social protection systems, tax incentives, skill development programmes, technology transfer and infrastructure investment.

K. Conclusions

46. African countries need to build on the progress that has been made to date and continue establishing robust institutions that maintain and improve the business environment, economic governance and macroeconomic management, with a view to increasing resilience against external shocks such as declining capital inflows resulting from tighter monetary policies in developed economies; declining growth in emerging economies, such as China; and economic fragility in the eurozone.

47. Trade will continue to play a major role in Africa's economic growth performance, with the potential to promote industrialization for the continent if it is deliberately targeted in this direction. Africa can only achieve limited growth with continued dependence on traditional agriculture and the services sectors. Industrialization with its capability to generate direct and indirect employment and strong forward and backward linkages with other sectors of the economy not only promises to transform African economies

but also to ensure that growth translates into sustainable development.

48. Strategies need to be developed to close the human capital gap, overcome the physical infrastructure deficit, address the manufacturing deficit in Africa's growth and reposition Africa in global value chains through facilitated trade in intermediate goods and services. A selective trade policy framework, with strategic sequencing, can be used to maximize the benefits of trade for industrialization.

49. These efforts call for innovative financing mechanisms to direct savings into industry (in particular manufacturing) and mechanized agriculture. Remittances, the largest and most stable source of external financing, must be leveraged. The first step would be to lower the cost of sending money to Africa. On average, sending \$200 to Africa costs \$23.80 (11.9 per cent of the total). Governments should also make better use of pension funds and private equity. For their part, governments with large international reserves should not only save them to build buffers against exogenous shocks but also use them for development, especially in growth-enhancing sectors.

50. Although Africa's growth performance has been robust and resilient, the continent is still not on the inclusive development trajectory necessary to translate growth into employment opportunities and to reduce poverty and inequality. African countries need to embark on strategies centred around social development, because human capital is central to innovation, industrialization and structural transformation. Education should place emphasis on studies aimed at enhancing the transformation process in areas where Africa has a comparative advantage, such as the processing of its natural resource endowments. Incentives should be provided to encourage children and young people to study sciences and engineering across all levels of education.

51. Given the large informal sector involved in trade and its contribution to GDP, there is need for: labour market policies, to help in developing human skills and adaptability and to facilitate mobility across occupations, companies, industries and regions; an efficient regulatory framework, while keeping the burden to the minimum, fostering competition and helping to ensure market openness; social protection mechanisms; fiscal and credit incentives for private sector development, primarily to small and medium-sized enterprises; and better infrastructure and increased access to public goods, services and technology for informal enterprises.

CHAPTER II

Highlights of programme activities and results

A. Macroeconomic policy

52. The subprogramme aims to promote policies, strategies and programmes for sustainable growth and development and to contribute to economic transformation in Africa while helping to mitigate any possible adverse effects of policies. Its work is organized around seven focus areas: economic forecasting; development planning; private sector development; investment promotion; illicit financial flows; development financing; and governance and public sector management.

53. These focus areas represent the prevailing areas covered by macroeconomic policy and management. In general, while individual countries may show some deviations, Africa is manifesting greater maturity on the macroeconomic front. While this trend started from very humble beginnings at the end of the last millennium, there is great potential for further macroeconomic improvements that may set in motion virtuous cycles of development in more and more countries. At the same time, adverse effects of growth, such as increased inequality, highlight the vital role of active government policy in ensuring inclusive development processes.

54. In March, the 2014 edition of the annual flagship report of ECA, the *Economic Report on Africa*, with the theme “Dynamic industrial policy in Africa”, was launched in collaboration with AUC. The report built upon the concept of commodity-based industrialization introduced in the 2013 report, and turned the spotlight on to institutions and industrial policy. As before, the 2014 report was launched at a number of different venues, both within and outside Africa. A related policy brief, opinion pieces and news articles were also published on the chosen theme of the report.

55. One of the major pioneering ambitions of the subprogramme and of ECA in general is to develop an Africa-oriented forecasting model. In 2014, this work

continued with the development of the concept note, and also with the identification and recruitment of consultants. By the end of the year, the development of a prototype had begun. The forecasting model is expected to be finalized and launched in 2015.

56. Also in 2014, the subprogramme released a report on the macroeconomic framework for the structural transformation of African economies. This report critically reviews existing macroeconomic frameworks and proposes an overarching macroeconomic framework, along with specific macroeconomic policies conducive to structural transformation in Africa.

57. The *MDG Report 2014: Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals* was launched in Addis Ababa on 1 November 2014. In addition to assessing performance by African countries both individually and as a region in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, the report included a special discussion of the initial development conditions in Africa at the time of the adoption of the goals. In addition, a special section was devoted to an outline of the African common position on the post-2015 development agenda, adopted by the African Union. Both these special topics constituted significant contributions by ECA to the continuing process of negotiating and designing the post-2015 development agenda.

58. Working in collaboration with AUC, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa, ECA conducted a regional consultative meeting on the post-2015 accountability framework in August 2014, at which it brought together sherpas of the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and participants from civil society, governments and the private sector in the region. The outcome document outlined key elements of an accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda from an African perspective.

59. Throughout the year the subprogramme worked in partnership with AUC on the production and dissemination of the African common position on the post-2015 development agenda, the translation of the related documents into goals and targets and the development of an advocacy strategy. Most elements of the African common position have been reflected in the proposal submitted by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals.

60. The expertise accumulated throughout the process should prove of benefit in the negotiations and formulations leading to finalization of the global development agenda. In particular, the outcome document of the regional consultative meeting on accountability frameworks has served as an input into the synthesis report of the Secretary-General, which will in turn inform the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. Follow-up activities and information sharing will continue throughout 2015 in order to ensure that African perspectives and priorities are reflected in the final global document.

61. ECA also contributed extensively to the Pan-African Conference on Inequalities in the Context of Structural Transformation, held in Accra in April 2014. The conference was organized by the Government of Ghana, in partnership with ECA, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Millennium Campaign, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, the Danish International Development Agency, the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, the Society for International Development and Third World Network-Africa. The participants, numbering more than 250, came from governments, intergovernmental organizations, universities, civil society and the private sector. The conference culminated in a draft policy statement calling upon all governments and stakeholders to make the reduction of inequalities in Africa a priority in their current and forthcoming development agendas. In addition, the discussions, conclusions and proceedings of the conference, including background papers and country case studies on inequalities, constitute substantive sources of information that are useful in all policy work by the subprogramme.

62. The report *Economic Development Planning in Africa: 50 Years of Experience* was finalized in 2014 and is to be published in 2015. This report assesses the planning experiences of nine African countries from all five subregions, with the objective of informing

policymakers in relation to their current development planning practices and policy work.

63. In May 2014, a collaborative effort with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs resulted in ECA hosting a regional outreach meeting for the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The committee was formed after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012, and mandated by the General Assembly to produce a report proposing options for an effective financing strategy in achieving sustainable development objectives. To this end, the outreach meeting gathered the views of African stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, for consideration by the committee. The meeting was attended by over 60 participants and resulted in a chair's summary outlining key issues and priorities for development financing in Africa. The chair's summary also informed the committee's final report.

64. Work on mobilizing development finance continued during the Ninth African Development Forum, held in October 2014 in Morocco, under the theme "Innovative sources of financing Africa's transformation". The Forum provided a platform for prominent African stakeholders to share key information and participate in focused and in-depth discussions on issues relating to the four thematic areas: domestic resource mobilization, illicit financial flows; private equity; and new forms of partnership. The meeting resulted in the Marrakech Consensus, which outlines key commitments towards innovative financing for Africa's transformation.

65. The subprogramme also produced two studies examining the role of public-private partnerships in enhancing domestic private sector development in the energy and construction sectors in Africa. The drafts of the two studies were discussed at expert group meetings in December 2014, and will be translated and published in early 2015.

66. In addition, ECA hosted the ninth annual African Economic Conference, in Addis Ababa from 1 to 3 November 2014. The conference was organized jointly with the African Development Bank and UNDP on the theme "Knowledge and innovation for Africa's transformation", and gathered a total of 187 participants. Ten of the fifteen researchers who presented academic papers fell in the category of "young researcher" – below the age of 40 – and three of the researchers were women. The other participants were African government officials and representatives

of academic institutes and universities from across Africa and abroad. Other regional and multilateral bodies represented at the conference included the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Members of the private sector and a variety of media were also present.

67. ECA also supported the work of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa and contributed to its report. The report is based on five country case studies, regional consultations, country visits to South Africa and Mauritius, and interactions with partners in the United States of America and Europe. ECA contributed three chapters of the report and provided communications support and technical advice to the panel. In January 2015, the panel's report was submitted to the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government and launched both regionally and globally.

68. The *African Governance Report III*, on the theme "Elections and the management of diversity in Africa", was launched and disseminated in collaboration with UNDP in June 2014. The report was also launched and disseminated by subregional offices in Central Africa (Cameroon) and Southern Africa (Zambia). By the end of 2014, approximately 1,500 copies of the report (800 in English and 700 in French) had been distributed to policymakers, researchers and stakeholders. Over the second half of the year, work on the 2014 edition of the report – the *African Governance Report IV* – intensified. This edition focuses on the theme "Measuring corruption in Africa". In July 2014, ECA convened an expert group meeting in Addis Ababa to explore the theme and methodology of the *African Governance Report IV* and a background paper on the report was finalized later in the year. A draft version will be presented at an external review meeting in the first quarter of 2015, before data collection processes are initiated in ten African countries. The *African Governance Report IV* is expected to be completed in 2015.

69. The Regional Anti-Corruption Programme for Africa 2011–2016, an initiative mounted by ECA in collaboration with the African Union, produced a draft study entitled "Corruption in public procurement systems in Africa: the case of the infrastructure sector". The study's specific objective is to provide African policymakers with an investigative assessment of the impact of corruption on public procurement in Africa. It also examines the negative domino effect that corruption in procurement has on infrastructure development and structural transformation. The

study will be presented at an external review meeting in the first quarter of 2015 and published later in the year.

70. During 2014, the subprogramme, in cooperation with the ECA African Minerals Development Centre, also started working on a study entitled "Illicit financial flows and domestic resource mobilization". The objective of the study is to support African countries, in particular those exporting minerals, in their efforts to gain a clearer understanding of the nature of illicit financial outflows and their main sources and to provide recommendations on how to address policy challenges arising in efforts to tackle illicit financial flows. The study will be finalized in the first quarter of 2015.

B. Regional integration and trade

71. This subprogramme prioritized support for Africa's efforts to establish a continental free trade area and a common market by 2017. ECA designed policies and programmes that strengthen the process of economic cooperation and integration in furtherance of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The subprogramme provides policy-oriented research on the linkages between investment policy and the principal driving forces of regional integration, namely, land, agriculture, food security, energy, infrastructure, trade and industrialization.

72. Regional integration is a key strategy for development and it is expected to produce considerable economic gains for Africa, although, as things stand, the continent still trades little with itself. In 2014, ECA provided evidence-based policy support to countries aimed at enhancing their capacity to mobilize resources for development and improve private sector competitiveness. It assessed investment needs and opportunities within the regional economic communities and Africa in general, with particular attention to the needs of regional projects; the promotion of agricultural and rural development, food security and land management; and the growth of agribusiness and value chains in Africa, and provided evidence-based analysis of the extent to which Africa's export expansion has been accompanied by a commensurate diversification of its trade.

73. Good progress has been made in furthering the initiative on boosting intra-African trade and promoting a continental free trade area among member States and regional economic communities. The ini-

tiative was formulated in response to a directive from the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-third ordinary session, in June 2014, that expressly requests AUC, ECA, the African Development Bank and other relevant agencies to take appropriate measures for the effective implementation of the road map on the continental free trade area and the boosting of intra-African trade. ECA, in collaboration with AUC and UNDP, has been working closely with the regional economic communities and selected member States on the implementation of the initiative. Consultative meetings have been held with the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Arab Maghreb Union, Gabon, Nigeria, Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania, resulting in draft action plans for several countries and for the Arab Maghreb Union. All member States and regional economic communities have passed resolutions assigning focal points for their action plans on the continental free trade area and boosting intra-African trade initiative. The initiative has been endorsed by African Heads of State, with the aim of increasing trade among African member countries and, ultimately, the establishment of a continental free trade area in 2017, which, in turn, will boost incomes, add value to goods and enhance living standards among the people of Africa.

74. In March 2014, ECA and AUC presented a proposed methodology for an African regional integration index to the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance at their Seventh Joint Annual Meetings. Both bodies passed resolutions supporting the index. The project was then merged with a similar initiative mounted by the African Development Bank and ECA. The Bank and AUC finalized a joint methodology and road map to implement this much anticipated project. ECA contributed to the development of metadata and questionnaires for the indicators, and also undertook to train professional staff in 11 member States and three regional economic communities in the use of the new indicators and the collection of data for the index.

75. To date, a substantial volume of data has been collected for the index, including partial data for 52 countries under as many as 26 of the indicators used in the index. ECA has already begun drafting the analytical report on the index and presented a first progress report on the index to the Committee of Directors General of African National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa at their first joint

session, held in Tunis in December 2014. During this period, the ECA Observatory on Regional Integration in Africa became fully operational and was regularly updated, so that it could serve as a repository of real-time data on country profiles, treaties and other sources of information.

76. In 2014, ECA research bore fruit in new analyses of the impact of economic partnership agreements. The African Trade Policy Centre was closely involved in the process of negotiating these agreements, in coordination with AUC. Acting on the request of concerned stakeholders and in close coordination with relevant regional economic communities, ECA undertook to study the impact of economic partnership agreements in the West Africa and Eastern and Southern Africa subregions. The results for these two subregions are also indicative of the more general situation in other African subregions and regional configurations. The study, based on computable general equilibrium simulations, assessed whether economic partnership agreements would support Africa's transformation and regional integration efforts. Research showed that African countries are unlikely to reap substantial benefits from these agreements, with the exception of a few countries, not included in the least developed country category, that exported previously sensitive agricultural products (primarily rice, sugar, dairy products and meat). In addition, simulation findings made a strong case for the sequencing of trade liberalization in such a way that effective regional integration would be implemented before economic partnership agreements.

77. During 2014, ECA provided capacity-building support to the African group of negotiators in Geneva in the run-up to the ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which resulted in the consolidation of the African group position on the WTO post-Bali work programme. For example, in collaboration with the Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the United Nations Office at Geneva, the African Trade Policy Centre financed and organized a post-Bali retreat for the African group of ambassadors and experts for the purpose of strengthening that group position.

78. The subprogramme's work on the future of trade relations between the United States of America and Africa included producing a white paper on future economic relationships and the development of guidelines for a national response strategy to the African Growth and Opportunity Act, accompanied by a monitoring and evaluation framework to track the performance of eligible countries in obtaining

trade benefits under the Act. This exercise provided the basis for eligible countries to develop their own response strategies. Since the development of the framework, Ethiopia, Lesotho and Zambia have finalized their national response strategies. In response to the momentum thus generated and the demand from eligible countries for this initiative, the African Development Bank has started collaborating with ECA on this activity.

79. ECA undertook a major review of bilateral investment policies and the bilateral investment treaties landscape in Africa, with a view to exploring the prospects for regional integration in Africa and its implications. It surveyed 36 African countries, reviewing their investment policies and bilateral investment treaties. The main objective of the study was to assess the prevalence, scope and application of such policies and treaties in Africa and their contribution to investment; to identify key issues, concerns and challenges arising from these agreements; to examine their regional integration dimensions; and to come up with appropriate policy recommendations. The survey targeted a wide range of policymakers and stakeholders, including investment promotion agencies, chambers of commerce and ministries of trade, finance and planning. This work has resulted in increased advocacy for African countries to renegotiate their bilateral investment treaties, so as to make them more responsive to their development needs.

80. ECA also undertook a major policy study on private equity as a potential alternative source of investment in support of development efforts in Africa. The foreword to this publication was prepared by the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, conveying strong endorsement for this undertaking by ECA. Further advocacy efforts were mounted in the context of the Ninth African Development Forum, held in Marrakech in October 2014, which is expected to result in the adoption by a number of member States of policy recommendations to create an environment more conducive to private equity investments, which are already on the increase across Africa, in particular in such countries as Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.

81. ECA work in 2014 on agricultural issues included the provision of training for member States in emerging trends in international agricultural markets and the strategic interests of African countries. It also provided capacity development support to the African group in relation to the post-Bali work programme and the revived negotiations over agriculture issues, helping to strengthen the negotiating positions of the Africa group in its endeavour to promote

regional integration and the establishment of the continental free trade area.

82. The African Union-ECA Joint Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, held in May 2014, made commitments to adopt and implement the seven principal goals of the programme for Africa's accelerated agricultural growth and transformation by 2015 and, for its part, the subprogramme led the work of drafting the mandated report on the state of food and nutrition security in Africa. The aim of the report is to record the consensus views of the African organizations involved on how best to meet the political commitments relating to food and nutrition security, with the aim of achieving a hunger-free Africa by 2025.

83. In the area of land management in Africa, six regional economic communities and two member States, with ECA support, have developed work plans for the implementation of the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa. In June 2014, ECA submitted its implementation status report on the Declaration, along with a proposed monitoring and evaluation mechanism and a capacity development framework, at two expert group meetings on the African land agenda hosted by the Land Policy Initiative. The Land Policy Initiative is a joint programme of AUC, ECA and the African Development Bank, with a mandate to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa. ECA also organized a parliamentary training session for member States on large-scale land-based investments.

84. ECA contributed discussion papers to, and provided services for, the third session of the African Union Conference of African Ministers of Transport, held in Malabo in April 2014. The Conference considered and adopted the Road Safety Charter for Africa and the African regional review on the status of implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. In addition, ECA organized a regional seminar on promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency, which focused on investment and financing challenges. The Regional Forum on the Implementation of Cross-Border Transport Infrastructure Projects in Africa was initiated by ECA in 2014, as a platform for the monitoring and evaluation of such infrastructure projects, and the first meeting of the Forum was convened in July 2014. Lastly, ECA convened one regional meeting on the localization of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Africa, and another on the bilateral investment treaties landscape in Africa.

C. Innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources

85. The strategic focus of the subprogramme is to promote the adoption and implementation of initiatives in the areas of natural resources management, climate change and new technologies, with a view to promoting economic and social transformation in Africa. In 2014, ECA continued research into, and the advocacy of, innovations and technological systems as engines of economic growth, with the aim of enhancing the capacity of member States to implement policy reforms designed to green their economies and to ensure the effective use and management of their mineral resources. In addition – and within the framework of the Climate for Development in Africa programme (ClimDev-Africa), a joint initiative of ECA, AUC and the African Development Bank – the subprogramme continued to support member States in their efforts to meet the challenges of climate change in key development sectors, by putting in place appropriate plans and mechanisms to factor climate risks into national development priorities, policies, strategies and programmes.

86. Efforts by ECA bore fruit in 15 capacitybuilding initiatives adopted by member States, regional economic communities and AUC, designed to nurture and harness new technologies and innovations for development at national and subregional levels. These initiatives include: the development of an e-government indicator manual and the e-government strategy in Guinea; the development of continental guidelines on open government and open government data in Africa; and the formulation of implementation plans for an information and communications technology policy in Cameroon, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana and Morocco. ECA has also started providing assistance to Namibia in the development and implementation of the country's e-government indicators.

87. In addition, ECA facilitated discussions on the use of agricultural biotechnology for the transformation of Africa and launched the process of developing a methodological framework to support efforts by countries to raise their profile in science, technology and innovation. It also contributed to the African meeting on innovation, science and technology (IST-Africa 2014), held in Mauritius in May 2014, the annual conference on technologically enhanced education and training in Africa (e-Learning Africa), held

in Kampala in May 2014, and the high-level meeting for a ten-year review of progress on the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, organized by the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva in June 2014.

88. In partnership with the Government of Nigeria, ECA organized the third meeting of the African Internet Governance Forum, held in Abuja in July 2014, and participated in the ninth annual meeting of the global Internet Governance Forum, held in Istanbul in September 2014. These meetings provided opportunities to deepen understanding on each area of focus and to outline expected results and the corresponding activities that must be implemented to strengthen the contribution of this sector to Africa's transformative agenda.

89. In 2014 ECA engaged with a wide range of institutions and networks of innovators. These included, in particular, the Researchers, Inventors and Innovators Association of Ethiopia (RIIAE), and ten African universities and eight technology development and marketing agencies, at which it gave assistance to individual researchers and helped to improve the technical skills of students and researchers in designing and marketing technological innovations for improved health care outcomes in such countries as Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia.

90. Member States have demonstrated a growing interest in promoting an inclusive green economy and inclusive green growth for their sustainable transformation and development agendas. This is evidenced by requests made at a number of regional and global forums, including sessions of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), conferences of African ministers of finance, planning and economic development, the Africa regional preparatory conference for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Conference itself, and the African regional implementation meeting on follow-up processes to that Conference. The adoption of the African Green Economy Partnership by AMCEN sends a strong signal that Africa is committed to implementing the green inclusive economy agenda to further its sustainable development aspirations. This interest and demonstrated commitment constitute a strategic opportunity that ECA must leverage to ensure effective delivery of its work on the green economy.

91. Accordingly, the subprogramme has enjoined African experts and policymakers from the region to identify, validate, and better articulate the necessary

enabling measures for an inclusive green economy in Africa. In addition, the preparation of a report and convening of an ad hoc expert group meeting on integrated assessment tools and the methodology for an inclusive green economy in Africa has helped to enhance understanding, multi-stakeholder dialogue, networking and experience-sharing on integrated assessment tools and methodologies.

92. The subprogramme has focused on five countries – Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gabon, Mozambique and Tunisia – for which case studies on the inclusive green economy and structural transformation are being conducted. Research outputs for Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Gabon and Tunisia have been presented and disseminated to key policymakers and experts, duly enhancing their understanding, and promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue, networking and coordination on inclusive green economy policies and structural transformation in those countries.

93. ECA has assisted three African countries – Lesotho, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania – in implementing their country mineral visions and has commissioned a number of research studies and capacity-building activities aimed at creating an enabling environment for the implementation of the African Mining Vision. Following requests from Ghana and Guinea, the ECA-administered African Minerals Development Centre has also started providing technical assistance to them in designing their country mining visions. In November 2014, a technical assessment team from the African Minerals Development Centre undertook a mission to Guinea to review that country's mining fiscal regime and its compliance with the African Mining Vision. The mission resulted in the design and development of a mining model agreement for the second Simandou iron-ore block, tenders for which are to be invited in the near future.

94. UNDP, as an implementing partner of the African Minerals Development Centre, hosted a meeting on implementation of the African regional project on the extractive sector in support of the Africa Mining Vision, which reviewed the draft step-by-step guide developed in support of the country mining vision handbook. The meeting also reviewed progress made towards preparing national visions based on the African Mining Vision in eight countries: Angola, Guinea, Lesotho, Mozambique, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, and reaffirmed the partnership between UNDP, ECA, AUC and the African Development Bank as implement-

ing partners of the African Minerals Development Centre.

95. In the context of the World Bank's African Minerals Geosciences Initiative – sometimes referred to as the “Billion Dollar Map” project – the African Minerals Development Centre has been enlisting the involvement in this undertaking of the African geology community. Outcomes of this collaboration include the establishment of a technical working group to address issues of geological information, including the African Minerals Geosciences Initiative.

96. In the context of the African Mining Indaba, the African Minerals Development Centre launched Africa Mining Vision Day as an opportunity to build on the outcomes of the third session of the African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development. The key achievements of African Mining Vision Day at the 2014 Mining Indaba were: familiarizing African business leaders with the contents of the African Mining Vision compact; floating the idea of an African minerals skills council; and establishing African Mining Vision Day as a permanent feature of the Indaba.

97. Against this background, the African Minerals Development Centre launched a project to review tax design and management in four mineral-exporting African countries, namely, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. The project will specifically review the regulatory and fiscal policy frameworks in those countries, in particular as they relate to mineral taxation and its impact on the domestic mobilization of revenue from the minerals sector and is expected to lead to proposals for optimized tax regimes and possible tax policy and regulatory proposals. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the Macroeconomic Policy Division at ECA and will strengthen the outcomes of the Highlevel Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, led by the former South African President, Thabo Mbeki.

98. In collaboration with the ECA African Centre for Gender and Development, the African Minerals Development Centre also launched a research study on gender and mining, to review existing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks in the mining sector and propose recommendations that integrate gender parity in mining policies, laws, regulations, standards and codes, thereby advancing women's economic empowerment. It also aims to explore opportunities for productive collaboration between large-scale

mining corporations and small-scale mining operations.

99. ECA has continued its support for member States in meeting the challenges of climate change in key development sectors, by putting in place appropriate plans and mechanisms to take into account climate risks in national development priorities, policies, strategies and programmes. Its assistance to this end has included knowledge-generation and capacity-building activities in the areas of energy efficiency, management of loss and damage and climate-resilient agriculture, and the provision of support to countries in harnessing the gains from blue and green economies. In total, ECA has launched initiatives on the building of climate resilience in 27 member States.

100. Work on enhancing the capacity of national meteorological and hydrological stations for climate change adaptation, climate monitoring and early warning, which had been commenced in three pilot countries – Ethiopia, the Gambia and Rwanda – continued, although the process of procuring equipment to improve the quality of climate information took much longer than planned. When completed, this entire process will contribute significantly to the attainment of such objectives as improved data collection and analysis; the improved dissemination of rainfall intensity, temperature, solar radiation and humidity measurements; the preparation of well packaged data for agriculture, water, energy and road infrastructure sectors; and the production of short-term climate forecasts for the public.

101. Analytical research to inform policymaking has continued, with emphasis on the impacts of climate change on agriculture, food security and trade. Focusing on five countries in EAC and fifteen in ECOWAS, this research will illuminate the linkages between climate change, agricultural production, trade in agricultural commodities and food security.

102. In 2014, ECA took the initiative of analysing the impacts of climate change on African small island developing States, which are among the most vulnerable countries on the continent. As a follow-up to requests from African small island developing States and as recommended by different regional and international forums, ECA significantly increased its support for climate change adaptation efforts by such States in Africa – specifically, Cabo Verde, the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe and Seychelles. Activities implemented include research and capacity development in identifying sustainable development choices, in line with

recommendations set out in the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

103. ECA published two strategic regional framework documents to support science-informed policy processes in small island developing States, entitled: *Climate Change in the African Small Island Developing States: From Vulnerability to Resilience – the Paradox of the Small* and *Unlocking Potentials of the Blue Economy: Are African SIDS Ready to Embrace the Opportunities?*

104. The subprogramme also led the preparations for Africa's participation in the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, in September 2014, and for the extensive participation by ECA in the Climate Summit, convened by the Secretary-General in New York later that same month. At both summit meetings, specific side events were organized to ensure that Africa's perspectives were given due consideration: thus, a ministerial panel discussion on African small island developing States was held in the margins of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States; while at the Climate Summit, a side event was held on the theme: "Moving against the tide: Africa rising to seize climate change opportunities". The side events also served as major promotional vehicles for five intellectual contributions to the climate change discourse that had been researched and published by the subprogramme. Participants at the events included three Heads of State and a number of African ministers.

105. The high point of the work of the African Climate Policy Centre in 2014 was the organization, in October that year, of the fourth annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, which was attended by more than 400 participants. The conference was held for the first time outside ECA headquarters: in Marrakech, Morocco. A salient outcome of the Marrakech conference was a dialogue between the climate research and user communities on the key features of the Climate Research for Development platform. It was agreed that the subprogramme would serve as the secretariat for the platform.

106. Under the auspices of the ClimDev-Africa programme, an Africa Day event was organized in Lima, at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the theme: "Africa in the post-2015 new climate agreement". The event, supported by AUC and the African Development Bank, was very well attended, with the participation of ministers representing AMCEN, Framework Convention focal

points from African countries, members of the secretariats of other ministerial conferences, representatives of NEPAD and other development partners. A dinner dialogue was also organized on the same occasion, on the theme: "Providing climate services for Africa's transformation agenda: in what ways can we do more?"

D. Statistics

107. The subprogramme on statistics is the responsibility of the ECA African Centre for Statistics, which is working to enhance the capacity of member States to produce and disseminate high quality statistics through a range of advocacy measures and the provision of technical assistance in the design and implementation of their national strategies for the development of statistics.

108. Most member States have by now designed their first generation national strategies, and ECA and the African Development Bank are conducting evaluations of these while promoting the development of second generation strategies. Rwanda has recently designed and ratified its second generation strategy. In 2014, the Comoros, Djibouti, Nigeria and Togo all made progress in developing legal frameworks and establishing autonomous statistical agencies. Other countries, including Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, have increased government support and received further donor assistance through their United Nations country programmes for the further development of their own national strategies for the development of statistics.

109. The fourth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa was held from 8 to 12 December 2014, in Tunis. The Commission provides a forum for promoting the development of national statistical systems in Africa and improving the quality and comparability of statistics compiled by member countries. At its fourth meeting, the Commission reviewed progress and trends in the development of statistical systems. It also identified statistical development issues requiring attention, including the data revolution in Africa and its implications for the post-2015 development agenda (further details on this process may be found in chapter III below, in the report on the work of the Statistical Commission).

110. The sixth meeting of the Forum for African Statistical Development, which preceded the fourth meeting of the Statistical Commission for Africa, was attended by representatives of African countries,

bilateral and international institutions, the United Nations Secretariat and agencies, African statistical training centres, and regional and subregional organizations. The theme of the meeting was "Fostering coordination, collaboration and partnerships in support of statistical development in Africa". It created an opportunity for all stakeholders of the statistical development process in Africa to set up a permanent system for the monitoring of that process in Africa and to strengthen modalities for cooperation, with a view to leveraging each partner's comparative advantage.

111. An expert group meeting on the use of mobile devices for data collection was also conducted, as part of the run-up to the first joint session of the Committee of Directors General of African National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa. A background document was prepared as a pilot for country studies. The ultimate purpose of this activity is to produce a publication to guide the use of mobile devices in data collection. African experts from member States participated in the expert group meeting, together with an expert from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and an expert from the United States Census Bureau. The draft background document was presented to guide discussions on the implementation of this new and innovative tool in data collection and statistical production.

112. African Statistics Day was widely celebrated on 18 November 2014 by the majority of African countries. The main objective of the event is to raise awareness of the important role played by statistics in all aspects of social and economic development in Africa. It provides an opportunity to campaign for the systematic and increased use of statistics for evidenced-based decision-making, with a view to ensuring the relevance of statistics, mainstreaming statistics into national development plans, using statistics in the design of country programmes, and monitoring the Millennium Development Goals. For 2014, African Statistics Day was celebrated on the theme: "Open data for accountability and inclusiveness". ECA designed and circulated posters, communiqués and materials to be used in celebrating the event, which comprised a range of national workshops, appearances on the media by senior officials and the release of surveys and data results.

113. The African Centre for Statistics continued to provide leadership in the implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. The programme

is supported by an array of pan-African institutions, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations that form the programme's core group. In December 2014, the core group, working in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division, facilitated a workshop in Addis Ababa that gave guidance to country experts in the newly revised Principles and Recommendations for Vital Statistics Systems. In all, 37 African experts, drawn from civil registration and national statistics offices, participated in this workshop.

114. The regional civil registration and vital statistics initiative has successfully promoted collaboration among relevant stakeholders at the country level – primarily the statistics offices and civil registration authorities. The ninth African Symposium on Statistical Development was held in Gaborone, from 17 to 21 February 2014. This symposium, the third in a series of five symposiums focusing on civil registration and vital statistics, brought together the two main authorities involved in this work in African countries, namely, the civil registration offices and the national statistics offices, to discuss issues related to the implementation of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, with specific emphasis on promoting the use of civil registration and vital statistics in support of good governance in Africa.

115. The programme has helped to galvanize momentum across the world, persuading development partners and donors of the urgent need to improve the systems of civil registration and vital statistics. A global meeting on civil registration and vital statistics was held in Addis Ababa on 28 and 29 April 2014, co-hosted by ECA, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank and sponsored by the Government of Canada. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss investment in and the acceleration of efforts to strengthen the civil registration and vital statistics system, building on the current regional and global momentum. A draft investment plan, developed by the World Bank, for the scaling up of civil registration and vital statistics was discussed.

116. The 2010 round of population and housing censuses in Africa was an unprecedented success in terms of the number of countries that participated, with a total of 47 – nine more than in the 2000 round. The Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Madagascar are planning to conduct censuses in 2015. The Sierra Leone census that had been planned for 2014 was postponed owing to the Ebola crisis. Another significant achievement of the 2010 census

round was the conduct of censuses by four countries that had missed the 1990 and 2000 rounds: Angola – after 44 years, Djibouti – after 26 years, Liberia – after 24 years and Togo – after 29 years.

117. Along with the African Development Bank, the United Nations Population Fund and Statistics South Africa, ECA played a major role in encouraging African countries to undertake national censuses: this effort contributed to the most comprehensive coverage ever by African countries. In 2014, ECA, in partnership with the African Development Bank, completed an assessment of the 2010 round of censuses in Africa and presented it to the United Nations Statistical Commission and to the Statistical Commission for Africa, in December 2014. The assessment report was based on a survey conducted by the United Nations Statistical Division and the United States Bureau of the Census in 2011 and 2012, and also on a detailed assessment undertaken by ECA and the African Development Bank in eight African countries in 2013. The report focused on four major themes: planning and management; quality assurance; use of technology; and processing, dissemination, analysis and use. It also put forward key recommendations for the 2020 census round. In addition to highlighting the unprecedented achievement by the continent, with 47 countries conducting at least one population and housing census in the 2010 round, it also drew attention to the use of technology and improved processing and dissemination of data. It identified the challenges faced and put forward radical suggestions for the 2020 round, which began in January 2015.

118. The African project on the implementation of the 2008 System of National Accounts was developed by the African Group on National Accounts under the auspices of the Statistical Commission for Africa and officially launched in January 2014. It brings together member States, regional economic communities, pan-African institutions, the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT) and regional and international organizations and development partners. The project deals with the challenges that African countries face in producing timely and good quality national accounts and economic statistics. ECA hosts the secretariat of the project and is in charge of coordination, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. It is also the lead agency for the compilation of technical documents.

119. Two technical manuals were also produced in 2014: a handbook on the supply and use of tables: compilation, application and good practices, and a guidebook on use of administrative data in national

accounts. Both manuals were discussed by member States at separate expert group meetings and the necessary improvements were made to them.

120. ECA is leading the training component of the action plan for Africa under the global strategy for improving agricultural and rural statistics, for which two manuals have been developed, a policy guide on the development of human resources for agricultural statistics and a handbook on a framework for the analysis of agricultural statistics training needs, along with four syllabuses: on sampling design for agricultural surveys; on agricultural data processing and dissemination; on economic accounts for agriculture; and on agricultural censuses and surveys.

121. In January 2014, working through the African Institute for Development and Economic Planning, ECA organized a training course for human resource managers from agricultural statistics offices, to equip them with the necessary skills, among other things, to design human resource policies in support of agricultural statistics; and to conduct assessments of training needs in, and to develop a capacity-building strategy for, agricultural statistics. In all, 45 human resource managers and officers responsible for the development of agricultural statistics from 23 countries attended the course. Another course was held in August 2014 for agricultural statisticians in economic accounts for agriculture. The objective was to enable the staff and experts of African agricultural statistics agencies to produce timely and reliable information on agriculture, rural development and food security by conducting improved agricultural censuses and surveys using modern systems.

122. The *African Statistical Yearbook* is a recurrent publication jointly produced by ECA, the African Development Bank and AUC. An expert group meeting for the external validation of statistical data was held in March 2014, at which the yearbook was submitted for review and validation by representatives of 34 countries. Consensus was reached between ECA, the Bank and AUC on the need to close data gaps and improve the quality of the published data, by implementing appropriate validation arrangements. The 2014 edition of the yearbook can be consulted at the address: http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/publications/african_statistical_yearbook_2014.pdf.

123. To improve the availability and use of geospatial information, ECA is continuing to develop a wide range of information and knowledge resources, applications and services for development at the national, regional and subregional levels.

124. The African Geodetic Reference Frame, a project implemented jointly by ECA and AUC, is designed to unify the many geodetic reference frames of Africa, taking data from a network of permanent global navigation satellite systems (GNSS) stations as the primary data source for the realization of such a uniform reference frame. Numerous national mapping agencies and universities in Africa, international agencies and organizations have installed suitable geodetic-grade GNSS receivers at many locations throughout Africa. In 2014, ECA finalized the logistical details for the roll-out of nearly 90 donated reference stations. Working in consultation with the international steering committee for the African Geodetic Reference Frame, ECA has selected and agreed to install the donated stations in a number of countries in East, Central, Southern and West Africa.

125. ECA, AUC and the international steering committee organized an expert meeting on the African Geodetic Reference Frame on 8 and 9 December 2014, in Tunis, in preparation for the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa. The main aim of the meeting was to review and assess the current status and future development of the African Geodetic Reference Frame, with the attendance of some 30 participants.

126. The African Centre for Statistics, through its Geoinformation and Sectoral Statistics Section, also convened the inaugural meeting of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa. A transitional bureau was elected and four working groups established, with ECA serving as secretariat. On the basis of this configuration, coordinated and concerted efforts will be made to standardize and harmonize geospatial information on the African continent. This undertaking is critical for the continent's social and economic development at all levels, and also serves to underpin the monitoring of the sustainable development goals.

127. Regional geospatial databases are being developed and continuously updated to support regional initiatives. The Second Level Administrative Boundaries (SALB) dataset project was revitalized in 2014 by the United Nations Statistics Division and the United Nations Cartographic Section, with ECA as the African focal point for the project. As part of its work to coordinate the project with African countries, ECA has concluded a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Ethiopia on the sharing of SALB datasets. Following up on the request from the United Nations Statistics Division to all African countries to share their datasets, focal points in Africa

have been contacted by the African Centre for Statistics and, to date, SALB datasets have been received from Botswana and Côte d'Ivoire.

E. Capacity development

128. The aim of this ECA subprogramme is to strengthen the capacity of member States, pan-African institutions, regional economic communities and other intergovernmental organizations to formulate, implement and monitor evidence-based policies and programmes at the national, subregional and regional levels in support of Africa's development. The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Capacity Development Division, which works to strengthen the governance structure of the African Union and its organs, including the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism and the regional economic communities, in deepening regional integration within the context of Agenda 2063. In 2014, ECA provided technical support to the African Union and NEPAD related to Agenda 2063, including research, advisory services, workshops and seminars. ECA also provided support for the process of aligning existing national development plans with Agenda 2063.

129. In addition, the subprogramme delivers policy advisory services to national, subregional and regional institutions and assists them in the formulation of strategies, programmes and projects, including the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

130. ECA is also responsible for coordinating the work of United Nations agencies working in Africa, through the regional coordination mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa). In 2014, United Nations entities continued to improve the alignment of their programmes with those of AUC, the NEPAD Agency and the regional economic communities. The fifteenth session of RCM-Africa was held in Abuja, from 28 to 30 March 2014. At the session, the participants agreed to further consultations with the secretariat of the United Nations Development Group on developing linkages between RCM-Africa, the subregional coordination mechanism, the Regional Directors Team of the United Nations Development Group, and the United Nations country teams, with a view to strengthening coherence and coordination, and thereby ensuring better support from the United Nations for the African Union.

131. At the fifteenth session, it was also recommended that AUC, in consultation with the United Nations, should set up a technical working group made up of representatives from the United Nations, the African Union, the NEPAD Agency, the regional economic communities and the African Development Bank, to formulate a comprehensive, long-term United Nations programme of support for the African Union, given that the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union is due to come to an end in 2016. To that end, the capacity development subprogramme supported and coordinated the work of the new technical working group, which is currently developing a framework for a new partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

132. In response to requests from the African Union, the subprogramme undertook a capacity development mapping and scoping exercise for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the East African Community; and two capacity development scoping and mapping reports were provided for the Economic Community of Central African States and the Community of Sahel-Saharan States. The purpose of the scoping and mapping initiative is to provide practical and strategic guidance to the full roll-out of the African Union's multi-agency capacity development programme, which is designed to ensure a coordinated approach to capacity development in Africa. In addition, ECA has developed a handbook focused on quality, results and suitability for the provision of advisory services to member States.

133. The year 2014 also saw the alignment of RCM-Africa clusters with the African Union's strategic plan for 2014–2017 and Agenda 2063. The subregional coordination mechanism's major achievements in 2014 included a study on the feasibility of a self-financing mechanism for regional integration conducted with regard to strengthening the capacities of the Arab Maghreb Union, and a regional food security programme in East Africa covering six pilot countries and mainstreaming intelligent transport systems in corridor infrastructure. Furthermore, throughout the year, RCM-Africa has continued to pursue the implementation of demand-driven business plans focusing on key cluster activities that respond to the priorities of AUC and the regional economic communities. Subregional coordination mechanisms are now operational in all five subregions, with the mechanism for North Africa officially established in June 2014, with seven thematic clusters.

134. ECA continues to be a strategic partner of the African Peer Review Mechanism and its secretariat,

together with UNDP and the African Development Bank. In 2014, ECA continued to provide support to member States in various aspects of the African Peer Review Mechanism process through country support missions. ECA provided support to the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism for the harmonization of the national plans of action of Lesotho and Zambia with their existing medium-term expenditure frameworks. ECA also participated in the African Peer Review Mechanism mission in support of the Government of Senegal and assisted with concluding a memorandum of understanding between the Government of Senegal and the African Peer Review Panel; a road map for Senegal; and an African Peer Review Mechanism national action plan.

135. To ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed into the African Peer Review Mechanism, ECA carried out a study entitled “African Peer Review Mechanism and managing diversity: the gender dimension”, which examines the extent to which gender issues are embedded in the African Peer Review Mechanism process. The study is intended to enhance the relevance and impact of the African Peer Review Mechanism on gender equality in Africa. In addition, an expert group meeting was organized to validate the report, which brought together representatives from the subregions and NEPAD to discuss the issues hampering the implementation of gender initiatives at the national, subregional and regional levels.

136. The tragic outbreak of Ebola in West Africa in 2014 demonstrated the need for ECA to be able to respond rapidly to urgent government or regional needs. The study undertaken at the behest of AUC and the affected member States on the economic and social impact of the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone provided a critically important African analysis of the impact of the virus on the affected countries as well as on the region as a whole.

137. In addition, ECA is leading work to determine the root causes of conflict in three parts of Africa (Great Lakes, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa) and the related development consequences, in order to untangle the relationship between conflict and development. The outcomes of the studies and related workshops and seminars will be used as input into conflict resolution efforts on the continent and the search for sustainable solutions.

138. In 2014, ECA also provided support for the development of sustainable tourism plans for Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda, based on the principles of ecotourism. In the same context, a regional sustain-

able tourism plan was developed for the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

139. Complementarity of action is evident from collaboration with other United Nations agencies and partners, as well as among ECA subprogrammes (for instance, the Ebola study). Notable examples relate in particular to cooperation with UNDP and the African Development Bank in the area of capacity development for the regional economic communities as well as in African Peer Review Mechanism efforts. ECA, UNDP, the African Development Bank and the World Bank also collaborated in organizing the Dakar Financing Summit, which took place in June 2014.

F. Technical cooperation: United Nations Regular Programme of Technical Assistance and Development Account

140. The Regular Programme of Technical Assistance is used to support African countries in their capacity development efforts. Those efforts are geared towards achieving inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in support of accelerating Africa’s structural transformation, in line with the priorities and vision articulated in Agenda 2063, the NEPAD programme, and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the post-2015 development agenda. In synergy with Development Account projects, the Regular Programme enables ECA to share its expertise and body of knowledge with member States, AUC, the NEPAD Agency, the regional economic communities and other intergovernmental organizations, in support of the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes geared towards the development of the continent. The Regular Programme is implemented under four themes, namely macroeconomic policy, regional integration and trade, development planning, and natural resources contracts negotiation, and contributes to the results under the regular programme of work of ECA.

141. In 2014 major achievements supported by Regular Programme funds included the provision of macroeconomic policy technical assistance to four member States to strengthen national development plans, and the success of the ninth African Development Forum. The Regular Programme also assisted with the design of industry, trade and infrastructure

policy frameworks for four member States and two regional economic communities. The Regular Programme has been used in tandem with Development Account and extrabudgetary resources to support the African Peer Review Mechanism process in Africa. Notably, the Programme has supported an analytical report on the gender dimensions of the African Peer Review Mechanism, and has contributed at the subregional level to the development and adoption of a business plan to combat the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Great Lakes area.

142. The Development Account is a capacity development programme of the United Nations Secretariat aimed at enhancing the capacities of developing countries in the priority areas of the Organization's development agenda. The Development Account is funded from the Secretariat's regular budget and implemented by 10 entities of the Secretariat (the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the five regional commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). Development Account projects at ECA serve to link the normative and analytical work of the Commission to its operational activities and to build strong synergies with the other United Nations entities, drawing on the strengths and comparative advantages of each.

143. The Development Account is a critical funding source in support of the ECA regular budget to help member States address their capacity development priorities. During the period under review, ECA has implemented 10 projects – benefiting over 30 member States – intended to develop national policies centred around the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic). In 2014, ECA also developed four new Development Account projects in the areas of statistics and data; development planning processes; strengthening African development planners' capacities for integrating the post-2015 development agenda into national development plans; and strengthening the monitoring of social protection in member States.

G. Gender and women in development

144. The subprogramme aims to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of global and regional commitments on gender equal-

ity by increasing the number of member States and regional economic communities that implement and report on gender equality and women's empowerment obligations; addressing emerging issues that impact on women; and mainstreaming gender concerns into national policies and programmes.

145. The subprogramme's main work consisted of: cutting-edge policy research and knowledge management (establishing a new knowledge platform for experience sharing); country-specific comprehensive studies; the strengthening of the use of existing tools such as the African Gender and Development Index; the development of transformative tools and approaches to inform policymaking; and tailored, hands-on capacity-building activities for middle-level and senior-level policymakers at the national and subregional levels to mainstream gender and women's concerns into socioeconomic policies and public finance.

146. One of the goals of the repositioned ECA is to ensure that women participate in and benefit equally from Africa's structural transformation. The continent-wide initiative for gender equality and women's empowerment, developed by the African Centre for Gender, which is part of the Social Development Policy Division of ECA, was endorsed at the seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the Conference of Ministers, in March 2014, and informed the Commission's 2014–2015 work programme on gender.

147. ECA achieved a remarkable increase in the number of member States and regional economic communities that reported progress in the implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment obligations through the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Against a target of 15 member States, 52 countries reported on the progress made in implementing the Platform, in their reports submitted to ECA for the 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Commission's summary report highlighted notable successes regarding the increased capabilities of women in social sectors, particularly primary education and health. The report was presented and endorsed at the ninth Regional Conference on Women, held in Addis Ababa in November 2014. The Conference attracted over 450 participants, including ministers, development partners, members of civil society, representatives of regional economic communities, AUC, the African Development Bank and United Nations agencies. The outcome declaration of the Conference is a critical milestone in bringing Africa's priorities into the global 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and

in positioning gender equality and women's empowerment at the centre of the post-2015 development agenda, in line with the common African position, the recently proposed African development goals and Agenda 2063.

148. The African Gender and Development Index is one of the implementation tools that will be used during the continent-wide initiative for gender equality and women's empowerment, and it will also strengthen the gender component of the ECA country profiles currently being compiled by the sub-regional offices in collaboration with the substantive divisions of ECA. During the period under review, ECA completed the roll-out for the third phase of the implementation of the Index in 13 member States.

149. ECA also provided significant gender-specific technical support in the provision of policy recommendations for tackling the Ebola outbreak that continues to ravage parts of West Africa. One result of the African Centre for Gender's work was a chapter on the gender-disaggregated socioeconomic costs of Ebola in key sectors such as mining, agriculture, cross-border trade and unpaid care work, which was published in the Commission's report on the socioeconomic impacts of the outbreak. In addition, the Centre is providing expertise and technical guidance to the United Nations-wide technical group on Ebola recovery planning.

150. In 2014, ECA increased the number of member States and regional economic communities that made use of the knowledge generated through the African Gender and Development Index, gender statistics, gender-aware macroeconomic modelling, the African Women's Rights Observatory, and the e-network for national gender machineries to mainstream gender concerns. Policy dialogues were organized through two e-discussions held with national gender machineries to address, first, the eradication of female genital mutilation, in which 11 member States participated, and second, the African regional conference on the 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the continent's preparations for the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in which nine member States took part.

151. A fact sheet entitled "Ban female genital mutilation worldwide" was produced by the subprogramme and disseminated to key stakeholders such as senior policymakers from member States, AUC, the regional economic communities, United Nations agencies, development partners and civil society organizations.

This was accompanied by a web-based information map on female genital mutilation highlighting general statistics and policy recommendations on eradicating the practice. In addition, during the review period, a desk review for the compilation of a baseline study on female genital mutilation entitled "Tracking legal and normative frameworks" was completed for 21 African countries. ECA also provided significant technical, human and financial support to the African Union Commission's launch of a campaign to end child marriages in Africa, including the production of a fact sheet containing statistics and action-oriented policy recommendations. The fact sheet was disseminated at the official launch of the campaign to end child marriage, during the fourth session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Social Development, which took place in Addis Ababa in May 2014.

152. The 2014 edition of the African Women's Report, entitled "Gender and agricultural value chains: transforming Africa's agriculture through women's empowerment", looked at six selected countries (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco, Uganda and Zimbabwe). Given women's pivotal role in agriculture, tackling gender inequality is a cost-effective way of transforming the continent's agricultural sector.

153. The Commission's *Compendium on Good Practices and Initiatives on Economic Empowerment of Women in Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining in Africa* and the *Report on Gender and Mining in Africa* both support the operationalization of the African mining vision by providing a better understanding of gender-responsive mining policies and practices.

154. ECA also published a report on women in informal cross-border trade in Africa, following an expert review meeting in August 2014 that drew over 40 socioeconomic experts, representatives from regional economic communities, and leading development practitioners.

155. ECA also organized a hands-on capacity-building exercise on the integration of gender into socioeconomic policies and public finance for African middle- and senior-level policymakers (statisticians, economists, macroeconomists, planners and gender experts) and a "training of trainers" on gender and economic policy management (an initiative developed with UNDP and other stakeholders) aimed at training African practitioners with a view to expanding the pool of experts. Once trained, these experts can respond to member States' requests for tailored capacity-building.

156. Internally, the subprogramme finalized the development of the Commission's own in-house gender mainstreaming programme. The programme has four components, all of which are now under way: (a) a review and assessment of the status of gender mainstreaming within ECA; (b) the development of a gender policy for ECA; (c) the development of a gender parity marker; and (d) a capacity development programme on gender mainstreaming.

H. Subregional activities for development

157. Consistent with their mandate, the ECA subregional offices continued during the year under review to assist member States, regional economic communities and other subregional intergovernmental organizations in strengthening their capacity to formulate and harmonize evidence-based policies and plans in support of economic and social transformation and regional integration at the subregional level. This was accomplished through research and analytical work, the convening of expert meetings and forums and the provision of advisory services.

158. The subregional offices have worked towards this objective by strengthening their partnerships with the major regional economic communities in their respective subregions, including the Arab Maghreb Union, the Southern African Development Community, the East African Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Economic Community of West African States, the Central African Economic and Monetary Community, the Economic Community of Central African States and the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

159. The subregional offices organized and serviced a range of meetings and workshops, including the annual sessions of their respective intergovernmental committees of experts; participated in the meetings of the policy organs of the major regional economic communities; and provided technical assistance, upon request, to member States, regional economic communities and other intergovernmental organizations on institutional and sectoral issues in support of integration efforts.

160. The subregional offices also strengthened their operations for data collection, knowledge management and networking to strengthen the accuracy and credibility of the Commission's output and outreach work. In addition, they continued to collaborate with

other United Nations agencies and increased their participation in the activities of the United Nations country teams in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to influence the post-2015 development agenda. In addition, the subregional offices have made progress in enhancing the coordination of United Nations activities at the subregional level, in line with the mandate given to them by RCM-Africa, including implementation of the joint activities agreed upon by the thematic clusters at the subregional level.

161. In 2014, a major priority for the subregional offices was the preparation of country profiles, a new ECA publication series to be launched at the 2015 Conference of Ministers. The country profiles provide data, institutional and policy information, forecasts, indicators, policy and risk analysis and recommendations on key social and economic variables. The profiles will serve a number of clients, ranging from member States to academics, policymakers, civil society representatives, analysts and investors from within and outside Africa. Profiles will be prepared at the subregional and continental levels (such as the *Economic Report on Africa*), with medium-term forecasts, risk analysis and improved periodicity (annual, biannual or quarterly).

162. ECA country profiles will add value by providing timely policy analysis and forecasts from an African perspective, in addition to tracking forecasts on Africa by external institutions and providing information on the central theme of economic and structural transformation in member States. Moreover, in the process of preparing the country profiles, the primary and secondary data collected can be accessed through the ECA database, for the purpose of additional policy analysis on Africa by a wide range of data users.

163. The following sections highlight the results achieved by each subregional office.

1. Subregional Office for North Africa

164. The Subregional Office for North Africa contributed to enhancing the capacities of member States in areas related to the countries' participation in global and regional value chains and the development of innovative and integrated policies for green and sustainable growth. The mechanism used by the Office in the preparation of country profiles was fine-tuned

during the period under review. Between March 2014 and February 2015, country profiles were prepared on Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The country profile development process entails constant compilation and harmonization of data and information on each country, aggregation of the indicators to be used by regional economic communities and other groups of countries, and analysis of trends, in order to help to produce forecasts in a timely manner. The spin-off effects of the preparation of country profiles will include the strengthening of member States' capacities to generate and disseminate high-quality statistics and policy analyses and to facilitate the planning and development of policies based on relevant data, in support of the subregion's development priorities.

165. The concept of green economy was addressed in four of the country profiles, in accordance with the country-specific challenges: Algeria (diversification and reduction of the dependence on hydrocarbons); Mauritania (governance of the fishery sector); Morocco (industrialization and new types of trade in Morocco); and Tunisia (green jobs and regional development). The profiles contain analyses of the vision and strategy for, and the status of, green economy in countries and present recommendations that take into account the specific features of the country concerned. Over the short term, the thematic reviews contribute to a better understanding of the vision and measures implemented by the countries. As such, they constitute a good tool for sharing experiences and establishing policy direction. The issue of subsidies and the fight against poverty and its costs were also the subjects of a thematic review as part of the 2014 country profile of Tunisia.

166. An expert panel discussion held at the twenty-ninth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts led to a technical study on regional value chains, followed by an expert meeting on trade, foreign direct investment and participation in value chains and a follow-up symposium. Those activities are part of a wider programme initiated two years ago by ECA to address the issue of the structural transformation of North Africa. The expert panel discussion provided a framework for the sharing of experiences relating to the development of regional value chains in North Africa, with a view to accelerating the diversification and sophistication of production systems and improving their integration into global value chains.

167. The findings of a study entitled "Developing regional value chains towards accelerating the diversification and sophistication of North African econo-

mies" were validated at an ad hoc expert meeting held in Rabat in November 2014. The meeting was followed by an international Mediterranean colloquium that furthered the discussion of regional value chains in an academic framework. The colloquium was a joint initiative of ECA, the African Trade Policy Centre and WTO. Close to 50 presentations by researchers and development practitioners were given during the colloquium.

168. In 2014, the Office's partnership with the Arab Maghreb Union was strengthened, as were the partnerships between the Arab Maghreb Union and other regional institutions. A number of major subregional initiatives were formally launched. The first set of initiatives includes the mobilization of subregional partners in support of the integration process, the development of a strategy for independent financing of the Arab Maghreb Union, and the formulation of a subregional action plan for the facilitation of transport and trade. The second set of initiatives includes those relating to combating desertification and to formulating a gender strategy for the Arab Maghreb Union.

169. To further strengthen and enhance the efficiency of partnerships towards greater integration in North Africa, a regional platform in support of the Arab Maghreb Union, serving as a medium-term programming tool for the coordination and promotion of synergies among assistance actions, was adopted. The platform is focused on seven areas of intervention, closely aligned with the medium-term objectives of the Maghreb agenda, and encompasses projects and actions contemplated by the Arab Maghreb Union for the period 2014–2015, around which the partners' support will be structured. The platform was officially established during the annual meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism, held in Rabat in June 2014, at the initiative of the Subregional Office for North Africa.

170. With a view to speeding up the integration process in North Africa, the Office and the secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union had previously agreed to include in their multi-year cooperation programme a capacity-building project for the Arab Maghreb Union. One component of this is the carrying out of a feasibility study on an autonomous funding mechanism for the Arab Maghreb Union. In the light of the experiences of the other regional economic communities and based on the specificities of the subregion, the study proposed a new scheme aimed at enabling optimal coverage of the current and future financial needs of the Arab Maghreb Union, for example, funding for

secretariat projects; substantive studies and analyses; integration projects and programmes; regional contributions to partner-funded activities; and structural or adjustment funds.

2. Subregional Office for West Africa

171. The Subregional Office for West Africa reinforced the capacity of the national statistical systems of the countries belonging to the Economic Community of West African States to compile and make available development information on the economic and social profiles of member States, particularly information on the impacts of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, and to monitor the process of regional integration through the consolidated deployment and maintenance of the Ecobase database in the subregion. The Office continued to support the efforts of member States to put in place geographic information systems as a tool for development planning.

172. Complementing the actions above, the Office also reinforced its operations with six visiting fellows, and provided training on using timely and reliable statistics to enhance the analytical work underlying the preparation of the four country profiles on Ghana, Nigeria, the Niger and Senegal. The Office and the Economic Community of West African States readily adapted to innovative tools for data collection, packaging and dissemination in support of national and subregional development priorities. The Office also provided technical assistance to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire for its evaluation of the national development plan, and supported the regional development plan of the Diffa area in the Niger through improved planning, management and governance at the national and local levels.

173. In 2014, there was an increase in demand-driven project requests from member States, and the Office adapted its work strategy to respond to these requests. The expanded staffing resulting from the presence of the visiting fellows allowed the Office to increase its knowledge networking among subregional colleagues specialized in economics and statistics, from national statistics offices and other relevant subregional institutions managing development-related statistics. In the area of subregional innovative initiatives, a key report was finalized on progress towards achieving regional integration in the Economic Community of West African States. The report will feature prominently

during the upcoming celebrations of the fortieth anniversary of the Community.

174. An advisory mission organized by the Office was conducted to Abidjan in November 2014 to provide post-conflict support for the reconstruction of the country by helping to strengthen the country's investment project planning processes. The mission provided technical support to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire through the Ministry of Planning. The mission also contributed to reinforcing cooperation with UNDP in the country.

175. In response to the Ebola crisis in the subregion, ECA made sustained contributions through the Office's coordination of a multidisciplinary team of experts who conducted a study on the socioeconomic impacts of the disease in West Africa and across the continent. Since the study was launched in December 2014, in Niamey, the report has been updated with information on new funding to combat the spread of the disease, and statistics and economic trends resulting from the epidemic's decline. It also included the views of non-affected countries on lessons learned.

3. Subregional Office for Central Africa

176. The Office serves all member States of the regional economic community and economic coordination organizations of Central Africa, together with a number of other key countries whose interests are closely associated with those of the subregion. The Office also works with non-governmental organizations, the civil society, universities, research institutions and the private sector to achieve its targeted results.

177. The Office strengthened the capacity of member States, regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and other subregional development actors to formulate and harmonize evidence-based policies and plans in support of economic and social transformation in Central Africa. During 2014, the Office also enhanced member States' capacity to produce and disseminate quality and timely statistics in support of national and subregional development priorities, and strengthened the capacity of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community and the Economic Community of Central African States to accelerate the implementation of subregional initiatives.

178. The Office produced four country profiles in 2014 that provide a synthesis of economic performance (GDP, inflation, debt, finances, balance of payments, etc.), social development (unemployment, Human Development Index, Millennium Development Goals), and ongoing reforms (business climate and governance indicators) at the national and sub-regional levels. The countries that were profiled were Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. The profiles were reviewed during the thirtieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, in March 2014, in N'Djamena. The Office also provided assistance to the Central African Economic and Monetary Community and the Economic Community of Central African States by sharing its methodology for collecting and processing statistical data for the profiles, and also through its contribution to the implementation of the regional economic communities' programmes on statistics during seminars organized by the communities in March and May 2014. The Office works in close partnership with national statistics offices of the subregion to identify areas of collaboration and their capacity strengthening needs.

179. During the period under review, the Office undertook research and analytical work, convened expert meetings, and provided advisory services. It also organized the meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism.

180. In the framework of the Commission's advocacy for structural transformation in Africa, the Office organized an expert group meeting on harnessing the potential of the extractive industries for structural transformation in Central Africa, during which a report prepared by the Office was reviewed and endorsed. The meeting, held in March 2014 in N'Djamena, raised awareness among Central African countries of issues such as the management of revenues from extractive industries, the weaknesses of mining contracts, corporate social responsibility in the mining industry, the transformation of raw materials, and the training of national mining experts.

181. The Office also organized an expert group meeting on improving Central Africa's business climate. The meeting, which took place in December 2014, in Douala, Cameroon, attracted 46 participants, and was intended to review and validate a report on improving the subregion's business climate.

182. One of the Office's major projects in support of the implementation of subregional initiatives was the organization of a forum on mainstreaming the green economy into development policies in Central Africa.

The road map for the upgrading of companies for the transition to a green economy in Central Africa – proposed in a report prepared by the Office – was validated and adopted during the forum. The Office has already initiated the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the road map.

183. Lastly, the Office provided advisory services to the regional economic communities and member States in the areas of: a subregional strategy for the development of statistics in Central Africa; air transport; harmonizing trade policies; implementing the subregional water policy of the Economic Community of Central African States; negotiating the economic partnership agreement; and the transition to a green economy. On United Nations cooperation, the Office spearheaded the subregional coordination mechanism. The sixth annual consultative meeting on the implementation of the NEPAD programme in Central Africa was held in Douala, Cameroon, in December 2014 to assess the progress made and to agree on plans to scale up and maximize the impact of the programme.

4. Subregional Office for East Africa

184. In 2014, the Subregional Office for East Africa, located in Kigali, strengthened the capacity of member States and the regional economic communities to formulate evidence-based plans and policies in support of economic and social transformation in the subregion. In addition to focusing on development, emphasis was placed on institutional and sectoral issues including food security, the environment, natural resources management, energy, trade and sustainable tourism.

185. The Office enhanced the capacity of member States to produce and disseminate quality and timely statistics and policy analysis in support of regional and subregional priorities. It also strengthened the capacity of the East African Community and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to accelerate the implementation of subregional initiatives.

186. During 2014, the subregional office prepared eight draft country profiles. The countries covered so far are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The profiles are expected to serve a number of clients, ranging from member states to domestic and international inves-

tors seeking nuanced information on potential destinations of investments, to researchers, civil society, and analysts in East African countries.

187. The Office worked closely with the planning department of the Rwandan Ministry of Infrastructure and provided advisory services to support the formulation of the national energy policy, in particular on policy matters related to energy access, security and the implications of regional energy policies and strategies. The Office has also formed partnerships with the Ministry of Infrastructure in strengthening the country's energy planning capacity, which is seen as a strategic and crucial component of the country's efforts to promote structural transformation and achieve middle income status by 2020. These partnerships offer a strategic opportunity to influence policy-making and strategy-setting through evidence-based knowledge delivery and policy innovation.

188. In June 2014, the Office launched a publication entitled "Energy access and security in Eastern Africa: status and enhancement pathways". The Office also worked together with the International Renewable Energy Agency and the Stockholm Environment Institute to deliver a technical training session on the long-range energy alternatives planning system and other contemporary planning approaches. The training session was held in Kigali in late 2014 for the representatives of nine countries from the subregion. The Office has also provided its expertise on the formulation of an energy security framework to the East African Community.

189. As a follow-up to the launch of the sustainable tourism plan of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, in 2014, the Office worked closely with the government bodies in supporting the operationalization of the plan in four pilot countries, namely, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. The plan has informed the development of country-specific tourism strategies, tools, policy analysis and data collection in the four selected countries. In Rwanda, tourism features prominently in the 2013–2018 United Nations Development Assistance Plan and is the component of a flagship programme on developing value chains.

190. In line with the decisions taken during the first meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism for East Africa, the Office is engaged in the implementation of three of the six flagship projects, namely, tourism, energy, and the initiative against the illegal exploitation of natural resources. The Office's work on the initiative helped to bring greater focus on how

the secretariat of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and its development partners are implementing the initiative. In addition, the Office, along with the subregional office for Southern Africa, played a pivotal role in rekindling interest in the subregional coordination mechanism among the regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies operating in East and Southern Africa. This effort culminated with the most recent meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism, which was chaired throughout by the Secretary-General of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

5. Subregional Office for Southern Africa

191. The Subregional Office for Southern Africa continued to assist member States, regional economic communities, intergovernmental organizations and other subregional development actors to strengthen their capacity to formulate and harmonize evidence-based policies and programmes in support of economic and social transformation in the subregion. In 2014, the Office produced country profiles for four countries in Southern Africa (Angola, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe). The country profiles provide economic and social data, institutional and policy information, forecasts, policy, risk analysis and recommendations to serve a number of clients, ranging from member States to domestic and international investors, civil society, policy analysts and decision makers in Southern Africa and beyond.

192. The Office also continued to strengthen the capacity of regional economic communities, member States and development actors to improve the design and accelerate the implementation of subregional initiatives in Southern Africa.

193. The twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa, held in Zambia in 2014, focused on the topical theme of how to make natural resources work for inclusive growth and sustainable development in Southern Africa. The 64 delegates, drawn from member States, the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the African Union, the United Nations and development organizations, applauded the Office for its efforts to facilitate policy dialogue and knowledge and experience sharing on key development issues for Southern Africa. The session provided a platform for member

States and development actors to deepen policy debate on natural resources, growth and sustainable development in the subregion. The Committee recommended specific actions for member States in the following areas: policy reforms to achieve macroeconomic convergence targets; value addition to natural resources, manufacturing and job creation; governance of natural resources; income inequality; and capacity-building to meet social development needs.

194. The annual meeting of the subregional coordination mechanism for East and Southern Africa, held in Lusaka in November 2014, and co-organized by the two subregional offices in collaboration with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, revitalized the implementation of the 2013–2017 subregional coordination mechanism business plan, as it provided a forum for stakeholders to discuss how to scale up the implementation process and address existing implementation gaps. The participants had the opportunity to discuss, among other things, financing constraints and institutional challenges, and agreed on a detailed road map for the implementation of the business plan. The delegates commended the subregional offices and re-affirmed the critical importance of the institutional architecture of the mechanism in ensuring reduced fragmentation in the operations of United Nations agencies and increased coherence and coordination in their work in support of the programmes and priorities of East and Southern Africa.

195. As part of the initiative on strengthening statistical capacity in Southern Africa, the Office convened a subregional consultative meeting for statistics users and producers, in November 2014 in Gaborone. The meeting was organized in close collaboration with the African Centre for Statistics and the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community. During the meeting, the findings of the field missions that the Office had undertaken to six of the eleven national statistics offices in Southern Africa were reviewed, and the identified intervention areas for support were prioritized. The meeting brought together national statistics offices, the secretariats of the Southern African Development Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, UNDP, the African Centre for Statistics and other relevant stakeholders.

196. This consultative process strengthened partnerships, facilitated the consolidation of the capacity-building requirements of national statistics offices, and led to stimulating discussions on statistical harmonization in the subregion through the adoption of international standards, models and classifications,

and their adaptation to the national and subregional contexts. Furthermore, the consultative process also raised awareness of the Commission's country profile initiative and its desire to strengthen the capacity of national statistics offices to facilitate the production of credible statistics for policy purposes. This level of awareness will, in the near future, enhance the Office's access to statistical data from national statistics offices and the regional economic communities for use in policy analysis and to identify areas for direct technical assistance.

197. As part of its functional support for the work of the country teams for Southern Africa, the Office, in collaboration with the UNDP country office for Zambia, undertook a study on economic growth and inequality in Southern Africa. The study, which was reviewed at an expert group meeting in June 2014, examines the relationship between economic growth and inequality in the subregion, the nature, causes and dimensions of the problem, and the consequences and policy options that could remedy this trend in the subregion. Southern Africa has one of the highest rates of inequality in the world and the problem has both short-term and medium-term consequences for the subregion.

198. The Office also provided technical support to the Zambia-Malawi-Mozambique growth triangle initiative by facilitating a consultative meeting on the initiative, which was hosted by the Government of Mozambique, in Maputo, in December 2014. As a result, senior officials from the three member States discussed and finalized a draft memorandum of understanding that provides for the basis for cooperation, in preparation for the official signing by the ministers responsible for commerce, industry and trade from the three countries, at a ministerial meeting due to be held in 2015.

199. The Office assisted in developing a memorandum of understanding to guide development cooperation between the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the government of Western Australia in the field of mineral and petroleum resources, agriculture, vocational training and capacity-building. The Office also assisted the Common Market in the development of a project on human and institutional capacity development in the minerals sector to be implemented within the context of the memorandum, which focuses on capacity-building on policy formulation, taxation, fiscal policy frameworks, contract negotiation, mineral management and management of mineral revenues. It also seeks to contribute to the development of harmonized mining

policies and legislative frameworks in the mineral sector, improved fiscal frameworks for the extraction of optimal benefits, increased value addition, beneficiation and linkages within the local economy, structural transformation and socioeconomic development in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

200. At the request of the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community, the Office provided technical support for developing a road map and strategy on industrialization for the Southern African Development Community.

201. The Office, in collaboration with the African Minerals Development Centre, also provided technical assistance to the Southern African Development Community's mining programme, by supporting two key aspects of the initiative: the mineral sector skills assessment study and the mineral beneficiation profiling. This initiative is part of the process of harmonizing policies and regulatory frameworks in the mining sector and seeks to address a key challenge in the sub-region, namely the shortage of skills along the mineral value chain. It also aims to explore prospects for mineral beneficiation and value addition in the sub-region focusing on those minerals that are amenable to value addition and the development of domestic and regional linkages.

202. The Office continued to provide advisory services to the process of developing a national minerals and mining policy for Lesotho. In providing support for this assignment, ECA is guided by the request from the Government of Lesotho for assistance in developing the policy and a legal and regulatory framework to guide operations in the sector. The Government wants to develop a policy that will underpin sustainable socioeconomic growth and development and address poverty, in line with the national strategic development plan for 2012–2017 and the African Mining Vision.

203. The Office also responded to a request for technical support from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, for assistance in preparing an industrialization policy framework. Thus far, a draft policy framework has already been prepared, with the Office providing substantive technical inputs at different stages of the process.

204. In addition, the Office provided technical support to the Government of Swaziland in preparing its trade and industrial policy, which has reached an advanced stage.

I. Development planning and administration

205. The main objective of this subprogramme, managed by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, is to improve public sector management in respect of economic policy planning and analysis and development planning by African Governments and other associated development actors. The institute's activities are organized around a portfolio of capacity development and training programmes, as well as a set of policy research and dialogue initiatives. It also offers on-demand advisory services to governments and public institutions, and serves as a forum for alternative thinking on African development.

206. A total of 25 training courses were organized by the institute for the benefit of African countries on approaches for better integrating long-term development concerns and economic policy formulation. In 2014, 521 officials drawn from 25 member States participated in these two-week short courses. The institute also delivered its first course in Arabic, in Cairo, in partnership with the Institute of National Planning of Egypt, on the fundamentals of development planning. The course attracted 24 public officials from African Arabic-speaking countries.

207. The institute's six high-level workshops on the African economic management and development attracted experts, public officials, leaders, and representatives of the private sector and civil society from some 33 African countries. The institute carried out a number of advisory missions to support policy reform efforts in Cameroon, Morocco, Nigeria and Rwanda, and one to the NEPAD secretariat in Johannesburg. The institute also organized six public lectures, which attracted senior government officials, international organizations, embassies and civil society. In addition, four research fellowships were awarded and five research dissemination seminars were held.

208. In 2014, the institute also organized three curriculum development workshops at which curricula for six new short courses were developed and arrangements were completed to launch two masters degree programmes in 2015. The two courses – one in industrial policy, and the other in economic management and development planning – were developed in collaboration with the University of Johannesburg and the Institute of National Planning of Egypt, respectively.

209. The institute published eight discussion papers as part of a special “Africa at 50” series, and produced three episodes of a documentary series on development planning.

210. The institute developed new partnerships in 2014 with the Macroeconomic and Financial Management Institute of East and Southern Africa, the Institute of National Planning of Egypt, the Pan-African Parliament, and the Bamanga Tukur African Institute for International Trade and Development.

J. Social development

211. The aim of the subprogramme is to formulate appropriate social development policies that promote inclusive and equitable growth, specifically in the areas of employment and social protection, young people and population, urbanization and women’s empowerment. In 2014, the subprogramme enhanced the capacity of member States to mainstream human development concerns into policies and strategies, with particular emphasis on employment, social protection, population and youth issues, in line with African and internationally agreed development goals. The subprogramme also contributed to the capacity of member States to improve policies, legislation and strategies enhancing inclusive urban planning, management and development.

212. The work done by the subprogramme was marked by a partnership with pan-African institutions, including the African Union and other United Nations agencies, through the revamping of the regional coordination mechanism and the subclusters of labour and population. RCM-Africa provides a regional focus for all United Nations agencies that programmatically integrate their Africa-specific programmes to achieve improved policy coherence and reduce transaction costs. This partnership approach was augmented by a dynamic collaboration with African research institutes and think tanks that reviewed and enhanced the Commission’s analytical rigour, capacity-building and outreach strategies, and production of evidenced-based policy research.

213. There is wide recognition today that the continent’s recent economic performance is not consistent with an inclusive and sustainable development path. Africa’s low level of development has been attributed in large part to the continent’s slow pace in structurally transforming its predominantly primary, commodity-based economies. Shifting the development debate to jobs, productivity changes and structural transforma-

tion is predicated on adequate human capital. The strategic re-positioning of ECA to better respond to Africa’s development priorities has strengthened the role of the social development subprogramme.

214. In 2014, the subprogramme focused on the transformational role that social development policy can play in support of the structural transformation of African economies. The subprogramme sought to leverage the interdivisional synergy achieved through collaboration with the ECA divisions for macroeconomic policy, statistics and capacity-building, along with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, and supported by the direct involvement of the subregional offices. This resulted in a more integrated and coherent approach to research work on social development policy in Africa. The relevance of the policy research currently conducted can be gauged by requests from established African think tanks and research bodies such as the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa, the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research and the University of Nairobi, all of which invited the Social Development Policy Division to present papers on social development and inclusive economies in 2014.

215. The subprogramme’s activities for 2014 were in response to African member States’ requests and recommendations as expressed through the statutory intergovernmental oversight committee. These included requests to assess human exclusion on the continent and to set out strategic priorities for population and development, including migration. The Committee acknowledged the introduction of urbanization as an area of critical importance and the Division has responded by creating a small section to pursue innovative research and policy dialogue on urbanization in Africa in the context of social development.

216. The creation of the African Social Development Index was a direct response to member States’ desire to assess the impact of exclusion on social development in Africa. During the year under consideration, the index went through a validation process and was piloted in five member States. The index has already been implemented by national implementation teams in Cameroon, Morocco and Zambia, soon to be followed by Kenya and Senegal. Awareness-raising of the Index was done in collaboration with the subregional offices in Marrakech during the ninth African Development Forum, and in Lusaka and Yaoundé. As member States provide their own national data for the computation of the index, national ownership of

the tool is strengthened and peer-induced capacity-building is boosted.

217. The joint initiative of AUC, WFP and ECA on the cost of hunger in Africa has continued to gain momentum. The eight African countries that are implementing country-specific studies have acknowledged the estimated national cost of not addressing child stunting and have proposed policies to redress the problem. This has resulted in seven additional African countries requesting assistance from AUC, WFP and ECA in initiating national studies on the cost of hunger. The studies have also led to the establishment of Africa's Renewed Initiative for Stunting Elimination (ARISE), with the support of ECA. The methodological basis of the studies could be applied across a wide range of poverty-related topics, such as youth unemployment or illiteracy, and provide evidence-based information on the cost to national policymakers.

218. The Social Development Policy Division also conducted a study of health insurance in Rwanda and Ghana, which appeared in the *African Social Development Report 2013–2014*. The study is intended to

contribute to the critical issue of health financing in member States.

219. "Harnessing the demographic dividend" was the thematic focus of the Division's work on population and youth in 2014. In this context, the Division organized an expert meeting to review a background paper on population and development.

220. In 2014, the subprogramme participated in an interregional Development Account project with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The project is intended to promote youth policies and programmes that are inclusive and sustainable, through the engagement of young people. By developing a toolbox of policy and programme options, sharing knowledge and providing technical advice, the project will strengthen the capacity of Governments to implement and sustain effective youth policies, especially in the context of youth participation and decent jobs for young people.

CHAPTER III

Issues from the subsidiary bodies of the Commission, including the intergovernmental committees of experts of the subregional offices

221. The present chapter provides an overview of the major issues and outcomes of the meetings of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, including the intergovernmental committees of experts of the subregional offices. It highlights the key issues and recommendations from the meetings which need to be brought to the attention of the Commission for action or information. The chapter also includes a preview of scheduled meetings that had not yet taken place at the time the annual report was finalized.

222. A review of the Commission's intergovernmental machinery, undertaken in 2013 as part of the institutional reforms, resulted in the elimination of overlapping bodies and a more streamlined structure aligned with the Commission's new programme orientation. Accordingly, the intergovernmental machinery now consists of organs focused on overall development issues at the subregional and regional levels and several expert-level subsidiary bodies, as set out in the following sections.

A. Organs dealing with overall development issues

1. Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and its Committee of Experts

223. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development provides the necessary legislative mandate and policy guidance to the Commission, considers and endorses its work programme, serves as a forum for articulating the position of Africa on development issues, and reviews the recommendations of the Commission's subsidiary bodies and the Executive Secretary. Since 2008, the annual session of the Conference has been organized

jointly with the annual meetings of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, with a view to achieving greater coherence in articulating Africa's position on key development issues.

224. The Committee of Experts meets prior to the Conference and provides technical support to the Conference. The Bureau of the Commission includes a representative from each of the five subregions and consists of a chair, three vice-chairs and a rapporteur elected on a subregional basis.

2. Intergovernmental committees of experts of the subregional offices

225. The five intergovernmental committees of experts of the subregional offices meet annually, prior to the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, to which they report through the Conference's own Committee of Experts. The intergovernmental committees oversee the overall formulation and implementation of the programme of work and priorities of their respective subregional offices and make recommendations on economic and social development, and the promotion and strengthening of subregional economic cooperation and integration. Whenever the need arises, meetings are held back-to-back with major ministerial conferences of the regional economic communities in order to provide a platform for subregional ministerial caucuses to discuss specific subregional development challenges. The outcomes of such meetings are brought to the attention of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

B. Functional and sectoral subsidiary organs of the Commission

226. There are four organs under the Commission which have essentially functional and sectoral responsibilities: the Committee on Gender and Social Development, the Committee on Sustainable Development, the Committee on Regional Cooperation and Integration, and the Committee on Statistics.

227. These committees meet in ordinary sessions once every two years and report to the Commission at its annual session through the Committee of Experts. The sessions of these bodies bring together policy-makers and other stakeholders, including development experts, to inform and guide the work of the Commission in various sectors.

C. Meetings held during the period under review

1. First joint session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa

228. The first joint session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa was organized in Tunis from 10 to 12 December 2014, under the theme “Strengthening the production of agricultural statistics in Africa for better monitoring and evaluation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme”. The first meeting of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management Africa was held in the margins of the joint session, to further strengthen statistical and geospatial information production, management, dissemination and use.

229. A number of meetings were held as preparatory events for the joint session, on 8 and 9 December 2014. These included the sixth Forum on African Statistical Development, a media workshop on the effective use of statistics in reporting development; a meeting of the Steering Committee for the Regional Project on the System of National Accounts, a meeting on the African Geodetic Reference Frame, and a

meeting on the use of mobile devices for data collection.

230. Participants at the joint session took stock of the progress made in various areas of statistics, including Africa’s implementation plan for improving agricultural and rural statistics, the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, the International Comparison Programme, the implementation of the national strategies for the development of statistics, civil registration and vital statistics, the data revolution, the City Group on Governance, and the establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics and the Pan-African Training Centre.

231. During the first joint session, the participants:

- (a) Called upon AUC, ECA, the African Development Bank and other relevant institutions such as WFP and FAO to strengthen their collaboration on improving agricultural statistics in member States, in order to supply quality data, inform the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and increase knowledge on agricultural transformation;
- (b) Recommended that AUC and ECA should develop a regional programme on population and housing censuses for the following five years, that would include sustainable capacity development, technical support and South-South cooperation;
- (c) Urged the leaders of African institutions, in particular AUC, ECA and the African Development Bank, through the African Statistical Coordination Committee, to work together and coordinate initiatives, for the common purpose of developing statistics in Africa;
- (d) Called upon the United Nations agencies to work in partnership with AUC, ECA and the African Development Bank in the delivery of the various statistical programmes and activities, and to participate in the development of national statistics programmes and the in-country coordination of statistics projects;
- (e) Declared the creation of the African Caucus of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Africa initiative, with ECA as its secretariat;
- (f) Requested that the Statistical Commission for Africa bring these recommendations to the attention of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for adoption and endorsement.

2. Thirty-first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Central Africa

232. The thirty-first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Central Africa was held in March 2015 in Brazzaville, under the theme “Developing the forest industry for the structural transformation of the economies of Central Africa”. The session drew over 60 experts whose overarching recommendation was for member States to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Congo Basin’s vast expanse of forest for the subregion’s economic transformation.

233. The experts called upon the member States to engage fully in value-addition components of the forest industry by engaging in so-called “second and third-level transformation”. Such a move, they noted, would be made possible through investment in technology and high-level training, the identification of new financing mechanisms, contribution to the Green Economy Fund of Central Africa, the creation of more attractive local markets for national investors, the harmonization of national policies in the sector and the implementation of the strategies already developed by the Economic Community of Central African States and the Central African Forest Commission on the transformation of timber and non-timber forest products.

234. They discussed the country profiles for Central Africa which, once again, underlined the vulnerability of the subregion to volatile global prices for raw materials. Structural transformation would assuage the problem. After examining the report on the country profiles, the experts asked ECA to broaden the scope of its data collection, make use of official statistics from member States, and refine information on the state of regional integration in the subregion.

235.

236. In their review of other key development issues affecting the subregion, the experts noted with satisfaction that many of the projects of the transport master plan for Central Africa had been implemented, but regretted the current inertia, along with the thorny issue of a yet-to-be-developed air transport vision for the subregion.

237. The meeting was held on the heels of an ad hoc expert group meeting on the progress in and prospects for macroeconomic convergence in Central Africa,

during which member States and subregional institutions were asked to step up their efforts to achieve the kind of regional integration that would foster sustainable growth in all the economies of the subregion. In the light of the disparate and weak performances recorded by the countries in the Economic Community of Central African States, the experts implored the member States concerned to take greater ownership of the various facets of multilateral monitoring and to forge the partnerships needed to extend the convergence criteria to the whole of the Economic Community of Central African States.

3. Nineteenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for East Africa

238. The nineteenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for East Africa was held from 2 to 5 March 2015, in Antananarivo, on the theme “Harnessing the blue economy for the development of East Africa”.

239. The meeting included a high-level panel discussion entitled “Blue economy: nuts and bolts”, and discussions of the activities by the Subregional Office for East Africa in the subregion, the status of implementation of the subregional coordination mechanism business plan, and an overview of the key macroeconomic developments in the subregion. The experts also reviewed the role of onshore and offshore mining. Three ad hoc expert group sessions were held in the margins of the meeting, on the following themes:

- (a) Country profiles of Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda;
- (b) Geopolitics and natural resource management in the Indian Ocean region;
- (c) Maritime exclusive economic zones and deep-sea mineral and energy development in East Africa.

240. The experts concluded that 2015–2025, having been declared the Decade of African Seas and Oceans, represented an important opportunity to highlight Agenda 2063, together with the African Union’s 2050 Integrated Maritime Strategy, as the guiding documents for the decade.

241. Participants at the meeting recognized that the blue economy in East Africa had an important role to play in contributing to structural transformation, sustainable economic growth and lasting social development. They emphasized that the blue economy

covers all water bodies, including lakes and rivers, in addition to seas and the coast. The largest sectors of the blue economy are fishing, aquaculture, tourism, transport, ports, energy and mining. They also observed, however, that the blue economy plays an important role in assisting other sectors of the economy, besides addressing important social considerations, such as food security, poverty alleviation and job creation. They stressed the importance of developing linkages between the blue economy and other sectors, and also of maximizing the retention of wealth creation within the subregion. In addition, tools and instruments should be provided for measuring the respective national engagement with the blue economy, including national policy and strategy-related data in respect of the concerned sector.

242. Participants noted the importance of the African Union's 2050 Integrated Maritime Strategy, including the Maritime Transport Charter. In order to accelerate implementation of the strategy and increase the level of understanding of other relevant international frameworks, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, they agreed to develop a blue economy handbook for East Africa. The handbook would contain a step-by-step guide on how to mainstream the blue economy into national policies, laws, regulations and practices.

243. In developing the blue economy, the participants recognized the overarching importance of the need to balance economic interests with environmental and social considerations, as encapsulated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The future we want". In that respect, they stressed the importance of taking an inclusive approach to the development of the blue economy; an approach that empowers local communities and stakeholders to reap the full benefits of investing in the domain. They agreed that the protection, conservation, preservation and sustainable use of aquatic biodiversity was essential, and that climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies needed to be included in order to ensure the sustainable exploitation of the blue economy.

244. The experts agreed that the international community, including the United Nations, had a role to play in assisting member States to realize the full potential of their blue economies in a sustainable, inclusive manner. At the same time, it was observed that the successful implementation of any blue economy strategy required a capable developmental State, political commitment and leadership. It also required gender-sensitive policies and broad-based participa-

tion in decision-making and policymaking, including the private sector, civil society, young people and other stakeholders. Transparency, clear communication and the active involvement of the media were also deemed to be essential.

245. The meeting urged member States, where applicable, to mainstream the blue economy into their national and subregional development plans. Member States were also encouraged to establish the necessary institutions and build the relevant capacities to better harness the potential of the sector. Of particular relevance was the need to build research and development capacities and centres of excellence in areas such as oceanographic mapping, fisheries management, integrated development planning, port competitiveness and tourism.

246. In relation to the country profiles being developed by ECA, it was agreed that the production process must be inclusive and collaborative. ECA officials would continue to prioritize the use of data from national statistics agencies. A consistent process and template would also be employed. Member States would assist ECA officials in accomplishing that task through the provision of timely data and information, while also providing comments on draft versions whenever possible. In addition, and where necessary, focal points would be established to facilitate communication between the Subregional Office and member States.

4. Thirtieth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for North Africa

247. The thirtieth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for North Africa took place from 3 to 6 March 2015, in Rabat. The objective of the meeting was to analyse the status and trends of major macroeconomic and social aggregates in North Africa through the review of the survey of economic and social conditions in North Africa and the country profiles prepared by the Subregional Office in 2014. The meeting also offered the opportunity to review the Office's activity report, short-term and medium-term work programme and the status report on the implementation of regional and international development agendas.

248. In addition, the meeting provided a framework for high-level national and international experts to

discuss and formulate recommendations on key issues related to national and regional development agendas.

249. In addition, within the context of the studies being conducted by ECA since 2012 on industrialization in Africa, the meeting discussed how to leverage trade as an instrument to speed up industrialization, which was also the theme of the 2015 edition of the *Economic Report on Africa*.

250. The Office shared and discussed with the Committee the outcomes of two expert meetings, the first of which was about international transport and trade facilitation, and was held on 25 and 26 September 2014 in Rabat. The main purpose of the meeting was to give deeper consideration to efforts to speed up regional integration and facilitate intra-African trade through a substantial reduction of the direct and indirect costs of doing business.

251. The second meeting, held on 19 and 20 November 2014, also in Rabat, focused on fostering regional integration through the promotion of regional value chains. The general idea was that regional value chains would not only speed up the diversification and sophistication of North African economies, but also contribute to more effective integration into global value chains.

252. The participants also discussed how to plan and mobilize resources for the implementation of Agenda 2063, with a specific focus on North Africa. Given the magnitude of the resources to be mobilized in order to implement Agenda 2063, the participants noted the need to explore innovative financing options, capitalize on traditional and non-traditional financial sectors, mobilize sovereign and pension funds to finance development projects, make special government loans to private investors, issue diaspora bonds, use extractive industry revenue to support development, and stem illicit financial flows.

253. An ad hoc expert meeting, held in parallel with the meeting of the Committee of Experts, on a strategy for an inclusive green economy, helped to analyse the challenges of industrialization as a vector for the structural transformation of the North African economies. It offered an opportunity to take stock of the national visions and strategies and share best practices on how to increase awareness about the challenges and advantages of a green economy.

254. After lengthy and detailed discussions, the Committee amended the different reports presented during the meeting. Given that 2015 was a pivotal

year for the world, with the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the Committee recommended that ECA should continue to assist member States to coordinate their efforts by way of strengthening their common position in the adoption and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. Regarding the country profiles, the Committee recommended that ECA should institute, together with member States, a sustainable arrangement for data collection so that high-quality country profiles could be generated from harmonized data. The Committee encouraged ECA to deepen its work within different research areas including the green economy, regional integration and regional value chains, through sectoral, national and regional analyses.

5. Twenty-first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa

255. The twenty-first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for Southern Africa took place on 12 and 13 March 2015 at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, on the theme, "Accelerating industrialization in Southern Africa through value addition and beneficiation". The theme is consistent with the current priority of the Southern African Development Community to develop a road map and strategy on industrialization. The meeting brought together high-level public officials from countries across the sub-region and partner institutions such as the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Southern African Customs Union, NEPAD, the Development Bank of Southern Africa, the International Labour Organization and UNDP. Representatives from the academic sector, civil society, the media and ECA were also present.

256. The Committee considered, among other things, the programme performance report of the Office for 2014, parliamentary documents on social and economic conditions in Southern Africa, the post-2015 development agenda, the regional indicative strategic development plan of the Southern African Development Community, and the medium-term strategic plan of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. The experts also approved the Office's planned activities for 2015 and adopted the outcome statement from the ad hoc expert group meeting that preceded the meeting of the Committee of Experts, on agro-industry development for food and nutritional security in Southern Africa.

257. As part of the twenty-first meeting, an expert round table was held on value addition, value chains and beneficiation, which elicited discussions from the private sector, universities and civil society on the subject matter. The Committee also considered reports from ECA divisions and the partner institutions mentioned above.

258. The Committee reviewed and discussed the background paper prepared for the meeting by the Subregional Office and made far-reaching recommendations aimed at accelerating industrialization in the subregion. The recommendations concerned policy alignment and implementation, value addition and beneficiation, resource mobilization, infrastructure, innovation, research and development, and effective collaboration at the regional level. In its recommendations the Committee highlighted the central role of the State in facilitating industrial development through strengthening the domestic private sector, creating an enabling environment and incentives for investment including foreign direct investment, adopting a skills development strategy, investment in infrastructure including through public-private partnerships, investing in research and development in order to promote value addition and beneficiation for the subregion's primary products and mineral resources, and addressing the problem of inequality that is hampering the process of inclusive growth and sustainable economic development in Southern Africa.

6. Eighteenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for West Africa

259. The eighteenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts for West Africa was held on 18 and 19 March 2015 in Dakar. The theme of the meeting was "Integration infrastructures and their impact on the subregional free trade zone in West Africa". The session brought together high level delegates from the subregional member countries, the private sector, universities, international development organizations and civil society.

260. Participants at the meeting emphasized the urgent need for the subregion to promote the development of infrastructure in the key sectors of transport, energy, new information and communication technologies and the development of banking, in order to accelerate regional integration, strengthen economic growth, improve social development and effectively reduce poverty in accordance with the ECOWAS

2020 Vision. The meeting was also aimed at preparing the subregion to consolidate its competitiveness in the framework of the future African continental free-trade area, scheduled for 2017.

261. The choice of the theme of the session was prompted by the arguments developed in the 2014 Economic Report on Africa. That report, prepared by ECA in collaboration with AUC, was entitled, "Dynamic industrial policy in Africa: innovative institutions, effective processes and flexible mechanisms" and, among other things, it criticized the dangers of high economic growth that is not accompanied by industrial development and structural transformation and advocated setting in place the modern infrastructure and logistics required for industrialization.

262. Participants noted that the development of infrastructure would make it possible to strengthen competitiveness, industrialization and economic diversification and, at the same time, would facilitate economic integration. Efficient transport infrastructure would also improve the delivery of and access to basic social services, such as health and education, and make it possible for citizens to participate more actively in the subregional labour market. Trade among the ECOWAS member countries remains low, as across Africa in general, but it could be facilitated and improved by the availability of good quality infrastructure.

263. With a view to sharing best practices in public-private infrastructure partnerships, Senegal presented its experience in identifying, building and financing integration infrastructure projects. The presentation by Senegal comprised a review of the legal framework for public-private partnerships, taking three projects as examples. The first was on axle-load concession and control; the second on the new Blaise Diagne de Diass airport near Dakar; and the third on the Dakar-Diamadio highway.

264. A report on the socioeconomic profile of West Africa in 2014 and the outlook for 2015 was also discussed during the meeting, as was a progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for 2014 of the ECA Subregional Office for West Africa and its forthcoming programme of work for 2015. Participants also considered the progress made in the implementation of regional and international agendas, in particular, progress towards attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the outlook for the post-2015 development agenda in West Africa. Another issue discussed was the mobilization of domestic resources for infrastructure development.

265. An ad hoc expert group meeting was held just prior to the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, on 16 and 17 March 2015, on the regional infrastructure in West Africa: its status, challenges and impact on the free trade area. The outcomes of the ad hoc meetings were shared with the participants at the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts.

Annex

Follow-up to the resolutions of the seventh Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance

The following table sets out the major activities undertaken by the ECA secretariat in response to the relevant provisions of the resolutions adopted by the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance at their seventh Joint Annual Meetings, held in Abuja on 29 and 30 March 2014. Some of the activities and measures listed in the table were carried out jointly with AUC.

The table also highlights a number of important achievements in support of the development of

member States, and sets out recommendations on how such actions can be further enhanced.

The table is submitted to the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at their eighth Joint Annual Meetings, for information and further guidance.

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
<p>913 (XLVII) – Role of renewable energy in Africa's industrialization and economic transformation</p> <p>1. Requests the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the regional economic communities and other relevant organizations to support member States in mobilizing the necessary financial and technical resources to promote renewable energy at regional and national levels and to optimize investments in generation and transmission infrastructures with a view to increasing the overall share of renewable energy;</p>	<p>In compliance with the provisions of resolution 913 (XLVII), ECA, AUC and the NEPAD Agency, together with other regional commissions of the United Nations, have ensured that clean energy (i.e., renewable energy and energy efficiency) forms a significant part of Africa's energy balance, with more emphasis on regulatory and financing aspects. To that end, ECA has taken the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed and piloted pro-poor public-private partnerships which integrate clean energy provision in rural economic development and equity. The rural renewable energy delivery model for such pro-poor public-private partnerships was piloted in Lesotho. The demonstration project is to be formally launched in April 2015. • Prepared and delivered training on the preparation and packaging of energy efficiency projects to a number of African countries. Projects have been identified and assistance is being provided for the mobilization of investments. The fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development was held in Hammamet, Tunisia, in November 2014, to explore how these projects could be supported. • ECA has developed a conceptual framework on how to localize clean energy technologies in Africa. This conceptual framework covers the following essential issues: renewable resource assessment; renewable energy technology road mapping; national and regional innovation systems; renewable energy global and local value chains; and policies and regulatory framework. In 2014, the biofuels sector was used as a case study for localization. The conceptual framework was validated in an expert group meeting jointly organized by ECA and AUC in December 2014. In 2015, solar photovoltaic and pico-hydro technologies will be explored. • Together with AUC, ECA developed a framework to mainstream gender in the development of bioenergy in Africa. A gender mainstreaming study was conducted and validated by an expert group meeting, held in Kigali in December 2014. • In addition, a regional policy framework was devised for the development of renewable energy in North Africa. This framework establishes a common approach to, and the means of facilitating, trade and investments in support of the development of renewable energy in North Africa. • Lastly, technical support has been provided to Mauritania for the preparation of its national renewable energy strategy, in collaboration with UNDP and the International Renewable Energy Agency (June 2013). 	<p>In compliance with the provisions of resolution 913 (XLVII), ECA, AUC and the NEPAD Agency, together with other regional commissions of the United Nations, have ensured that clean energy (i.e., renewable energy and energy efficiency) forms a significant part of Africa's energy balance, with more emphasis on regulatory and financing aspects. To that end, ECA has taken the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed and piloted pro-poor public-private partnerships which integrate clean energy provision in rural economic development and equity. The rural renewable energy delivery model for such pro-poor public-private partnerships was piloted in Lesotho. The demonstration project is to be formally launched in April 2015. • Prepared and delivered training on the preparation and packaging of energy efficiency projects to a number of African countries. Projects have been identified and assistance is being provided for the mobilization of investments. The fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development was held in Hammamet, Tunisia, in November 2014, to explore how these projects could be supported. • ECA has developed a conceptual framework on how to localize clean energy technologies in Africa. This conceptual framework covers the following essential issues: renewable resource assessment; renewable energy technology road mapping; national and regional innovation systems; renewable energy global and local value chains; and policies and regulatory framework. In 2014, the biofuels sector was used as a case study for localization. The conceptual framework was validated in an expert group meeting jointly organized by ECA and AUC in December 2014. In 2015, solar photovoltaic and pico-hydro technologies will be explored. • Together with AUC, ECA developed a framework to mainstream gender in the development of bioenergy in Africa. A gender mainstreaming study was conducted and validated by an expert group meeting, held in Kigali in December 2014. • In addition, a regional policy framework was devised for the development of renewable energy in North Africa. This framework establishes a common approach to, and the means of facilitating, trade and investments in support of the development of renewable energy in North Africa. • Lastly, technical support has been provided to Mauritania for the preparation of its national renewable energy strategy, in collaboration with UNDP and the International Renewable Energy Agency (June 2013).

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
<p>914(XLVII) – African regional integration index</p> <p>3. <i>Calls upon</i> the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to take all necessary steps to develop and use the African regional integration index as proposed in the concept paper, taking into account the discussion and related observations made at the present meeting;</p> <p>4. <i>Urges</i> the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to work closely with the regional economic communities in the development and use of the African regional integration index;</p> <p>5. <i>Further urges</i> Governments to scale up their commitment to and support for the accelerated attainment of the objectives of Africa's regional integration by mainstreaming agreed plans and programmes into national development policies, strategies and budgets;</p>		<p>In compliance with the provisions of resolution 914(XLVII), ECA, together with the African Development Bank and AUC, has consulted member States and regional economic communities, finalized the methodology for the African Regional Integration Index, secured funds for the rest of the project and collected substantial volumes of data. In response to the provisions of paragraph 3 of the resolution, ECA and AUC, in collaboration with the Bank, have taken the following actions to develop and use the index:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed on a list of indicators, taking into account the comments made at the conference (thus, indicators on macro-economic policy convergence and cultural integration have been added to the index, and all the other dimensions from the concept paper have been retained); • Agreed on a road-map and methodology for the production of the index, taking into account the comment that the index should rank African countries only against one another and not against countries outside the continent; • Finalized detailed metadata and a questionnaire for data collection in French. The English version has been translated and is awaiting final review. The three institutions have incorporated feedback from 18 member States on the design of the data collection instrument; • Collected data that member States have already provided to partner organizations, covering 26 of the indicators; • Trained national focal points from seven pilot countries in data collection for the index and organized further training for 20 additional member States, to be held in Addis Ababa in March 2015; • Initiated data collection directly from 20 member States and three regional economic communities, with data collection from the remaining member States to follow; • Secured resources to finish the production of the index, including an interactive website that will allow analysis of the data collected and a report analysing the findings; • Publicized the index to member States and the media, through press releases and meetings detailed below.

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
<p>6. Undertakes to work in close collaboration with other relevant ministries at the national level, to support the successful realization of the African regional integration index and Africa's regional integration in general.</p>		<p>In response to the provisions of paragraphs 4 and 6, ECA, the Bank and AUC have jointly taken the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulted three regional economic communities on the design of the index; • Consulted 18 African governments and national statistics offices on the design of the index and data collection methodology • Presented the index at the following African intergovernmental meetings, in addition to the seventh Joint Annual Meetings, and incorporated comments received at them: twenty-ninth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts, held in Rabat March 2014; the seventh Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Integration, held in Ezulwini, Swaziland, in July 2014; and the joint session of the Committee of Directors General of African National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa, held in Tunis in December 2014. ECA and AUC are also organizing a side event on the index in the margins of the eighth Joint Annual Meetings; • Set up permanent working arrangements with member States to collect data for the index, having initiated data collection from 20 member States and three regional economic communities, trained seven national focal points in the collection of data for the index, and organized a forthcoming training course for a further 20 national statistical focal points. <p>In addition, in response to paragraph 5, ECA has also stressed the importance of action on regional integration and reminded governments – or, more specifically, the ministries responsible – of their commitments under the pan-African integration agreements. ECA has also highlighted to governments and regional economic communities the importance of taking action in the areas covered by the regional integration index.</p> <p>ECA has also launched actions, including field studies, an expert group meeting and the preparation of a publication, towards the adoption of a subregional action plan on international transport and trade facilitation in North Africa. The main objective is the improvement of intraregional trade among North African countries.</p>

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
<p>915(XLVII) – New continent-wide initiative on gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>4. Urges the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to report on progress made on the initiative during the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance.</p>	<p>We will continue to work to sustain a supportive macroeconomic policy environment that will help to nurture the industrial sector.</p> <p>We will play our part in ensuring that policies relating to trade and trade facilitation, investment, energy, infrastructure development, logistics and supply chain management, science, technology, education and industry are more closely aligned. We will also provide policy incentives that will ensure that industrial investments serve the social policy goals and aspirations of our countries, including the empowerment of women. In this respect, we salute the new continent-wide initiative on gender equality and women's empowerment and encourage the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to expedite its effective implementation. All of these actions will ensure better outcomes as we move towards the goal of an inclusive structural transformation.</p>	<p>The main thrust of the ECA continent-wide initiative for gender equality and women's empowerment is to ensure that any policies and interventions relating to Africa's structural transformation take into account women's and men's differential needs, constraints and opportunities, with special attention to the disadvantaged situation of women in all areas of development. Through its three interlinked components – namely, women's economic empowerment; women's human rights; and the social sector – the initiative would enable women to be recognized players in and beneficiaries of the continent's transformative development.</p> <p>Since its adoption by the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance at their seventh Joint Annual Meetings, it has served as a road map for the work of the African Centre for Gender. The initiative has scored the following achievements to date.</p> <p>Component 1 – women's economic empowerment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two research programmes have been launched, on gender and the agricultural value chain, and on gender and mining. Based on empirical and secondary research, the programme analyses gender issues across the various steps of the agricultural value chain and will define policy recommendations and actions for member States. • Research has been undertaken in six countries representing the five ECA subregions: Central Africa: Cameroon; East Africa: Ethiopia and Uganda; North Africa: Morocco; Southern Africa: Zimbabwe; and West Africa: Mali. To date, four of the six countries have completed their field work, while the remaining two are making good progress. Findings from the field work demonstrate the pivotal role that women play in agricultural value chains, mainly through their labour, and the main constraints that they face in terms of access to and control over assets, markets (local, national and regional) and decision-making processes, among other matters. Qualitative information, including accounts of women's experience of gender inequality in the value chain, constitutes powerful evidence for policymakers. • The gender and mining programme is designed to advance women's economic empowerment through strengthening gender dimensions in the mining sector. Not only would women gain access to decent and better paid jobs, but they would also become entrepreneurs contributing to improving their well-being and social status. Research is under way in five countries, representing subregional and linguistic diversity, where more than 100,000 artisanal and small-scale miners have been selected, namely: Southern Africa – Zambia; East Africa – the United Republic of Tanzania; Central Africa – Democratic Republic of the Congo; West Africa – Ghana and Guinea. • The expected results and their use in policymaking and programming are the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both programmes are expected to expand the knowledge-based on gender in agricultural value chain and gender in the mining sector respectively. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Research on gender and the agricultural value chain will inform the African Women's Report for the period 2014–2015, which will provide member States with policy options for more gender-responsive planning of their agricultural transformation. – Compendium showcasing experiences of women in the mining sector will be produced, highlighting opportunities, challenges and countries' best practices in addressing gender issues in the sector and putting forward action-oriented policy recommendations for member States. – The outcomes of both programmes will be used to provide countries with tailored capacity-building and technical support.

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
		<p>Component 2: Women's rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the African Women's Rights Observatory – a tool developed to collect accurate information and data on African women's rights – ECA published fact sheets on female genital mutilation and early child marriage in Africa. These were followed by an internet-based discussion during which member States exchanged information and best practices in addressing both issues. • In addition, ECA has continued to strengthen the African Gender and Development Index, promoting it as a gender-responsive policymaking, monitoring and evaluation tool. This approach will be followed in implementing the index in the 24 countries which have not yet adopted it. Technical support in its use will also be provided to member States. <p>Component 3: Social sector issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the context of programmes by the African Centre on Gender to respond to women's needs, including in terms of social protection and social security, discussions are under way with the African Medical and Research Foundation, UNW/omen, UNFPA, AUC and the Social Protection and Employment Section of ECA to define measures to support the expansion of the midwife programme in Africa. The programme is aimed at increasing the number of midwives in Africa and at combating maternal mortality, which remains very high on the continent.

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
<p>916(XLVII) – Illicit financial flows</p> <p>4. Entrusts the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, with disseminating the findings and recommendations of the Panel and undertaking further research and capacity development activities in this regard within the continent and at the global level.</p>	<p><i>We deplore the unfortunate situation whereby Africa loses \$50 billion a year in illicit financial flows. These flows relate principally to commercial transactions, tax evasion, criminal activities (money laundering, and drug, arms and human trafficking), bribery, corruption and abuse of office. Countries that are rich in natural resources and countries with inadequate or non-existent institutional architecture are the most at risk of falling victim to illicit financial flows. These illicit flows have a negative impact on Africa's development efforts: the most serious consequences are the loss of investment capital and revenue that could have been used to finance development programmes, the undermining of State institutions and a weakening of the rule of law.</i></p> <p><i>We pledge to take the necessary coordinated action nationally, regionally and continentally to strengthen our economic governance institutions and machinery, focusing especially on tax administration, contract negotiations, and trade-related financial leakages.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, we will engage with the international community in the context of the ongoing discussions on the reform of global economic governance, in order to highlight our concerns regarding illicit transfers, including the question of tax havens.</i></p>	<p>In fulfilment of the provisions of resolution 916(XLVII), the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa was set up by AUC and ECA to investigate this phenomenon and its impact on development. The Panel, headed by the former South African President, Thabo Mbeki, was formally established in January 2015 by the Assembly of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session. At that same session, the Assembly also adopted its Special Declaration on Illicit Financial Flows.</p>

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
<p>3. <i>Urges</i> the Economic Commission for Africa to scale up its efforts to strengthen national statistical systems, with a view to improving the availability, quality and timeliness of statistics in African countries.</p>		<p>The following achievements have been registered in fulfilment of the provisions of resolution 917(XLVII):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECA has conducted evaluations of national strategies for the development of statistics in Madagascar, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe, in collaboration with the African Development Bank and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-First Century. The results of the evaluations fed into the design of new strategies. Similar evaluations have been programmed for other countries in 2015. ECA, as the secretariat of the Africa Programme on Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics, helps countries with their conduct of comprehensive assessments and development of action plans to improve their civil registration and vital statistics systems. With the collaboration of AUC, the African Development Bank and other United Nations agencies, 22 countries have received support and are at various stages of this process. Through its African Centre for Statistics, ECA is implementing six pilot projects on the use of mobile devices for data collection under the concept of “citizen as data collector”, whereby citizens will collect data in the course of their normal social and economic activities. Five of the pilot projects are being funded by the United Nations Development Account, while one is funded from extrabudgetary resources. ECA has worked on the preparation and updating of country profiles, forming part of a high-profile series of geographical publications designed to provide economic and social data, institutional and policy information, and also forecasts and policy and risk analysis, and intended for a wide array of clients, ranging from member States to domestic and international investors seeking nuanced information on potential destinations for their investments, and researchers, members of civil society and analysts in Africa and elsewhere. The ECA Subregional Office for Central Africa helped enhance the capacity of member States to produce and disseminate quality and timely statistics in support of national and subregional development priorities, in particular through production of four country profiles, for Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. A fifth country profile, for Cameroon, has been prepared and will be published after review during the forthcoming eight Joint Annual Meetings. The Subregional Office also launched the ECA initiative on the use of mobile devices for data collection and dissemination in Africa, through a pilot project for the National Statistics Office of Cameroon. In this context, following two technical meetings, a letter of agreement between ECA and the National Statistics Office was prepared and submitted for signature by the parties. This project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Office through the introduction of mobile devices for the collection, processing and dissemination of data. The outcome of this initiative and the lessons learned will be used in the planned expansion of the initiative to other national statistics offices in the Central Africa subregion. At the request of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the Subregional Office for West Africa is currently providing technical assistance to the country in the establishment of the Pan-African Institute for Statistical Training. The institute is being created pursuant to a July 2012 decision of the Assembly of the African Union. Pursuant to the provisions of the resolution, the forthcoming eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development will provide an opportunity to discuss modalities for collaboration in the production of the country profiles between the Subregional Office and national statistical systems in Eastern Africa. The Kenya country profile will be submitted during the eighth Joint Annual Meetings in Addis Ababa. Work on the preparation and updating of country profiles is continuing under the leadership of the Subregional Office for Southern Africa. As of December 2014, four such country profiles have been prepared: for Angola, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first subregional consultative meeting for national statistics offices and other users and producers of statistics in Southern Africa was convened in Gaborone on 26 and 27 November 2014. The meeting was aimed at identifying and consolidating the technical support and capacity requirements of national statistics offices. It also provided a useful forum for sharing best practices and experiences in the collection and management of data, and enhancing partnerships, networking and coordination in statistics in the subregion. • In addition, the Subregional Office for West Africa undertook a technical assistance mission to Serekunda, in the Gambia, to launch a capacity-building pilot project for the Gambia Bureau of Statistics. The Gambian pilot project is part of a broader effort by ECA aimed at strengthening the capacity of African countries to use mobile technologies to collect data for effective policy and decision-making. • Under a memorandum of understanding signed with the West African Economic and Monetary Union in March 2013 and its addendum signed in May 2014, the Subregional Office for West Africa has embarked on a close collaborative venture with the Union to develop its next regional statistics programme for the period 2015–2020. • Following the Ebola outbreak in its region, the Subregional Office has coordinated a study on social and economic impacts of Ebola in West Africa, along with the related data collection. The report was launched by the ECA Executive Secretary in December 2014. • Lastly, four country profiles – for Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal – were prepared by the Subregional Office in 2014. • The Subregional Office for North Africa has undertaken missions to Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia for data collection, with a view to producing country profiles. During those missions, discussions were conducted about statistical capacity-building in these countries. Three country profiles – on Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia – are being prepared. Work on the profile for Morocco involved other ECA divisions and subregional offices and has helped strengthen cooperation arrangements across divisions and offices. • The Subregional Office for East Africa has initiated the production of country profiles for eight countries in the subregion, namely, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The country profiles will be published in the course of 2015. The country profiles focus on two main issues: economic transformation and regional integration. • The draft Kenya and Rwanda country profiles informed discussions and served as important source documents during high-level policy dialogues between the ECA senior management team and cabinet members and other senior officials of the two countries held in December 2014 and February 2015, respectively. • An ad hoc expert group meeting on country profiles was held in Antananarivo in March 2015. The objective of the meeting was to serve as a platform for governments, members of the private sector, civil society, think tanks and experts to comment on and refine the draft country profiles. This process has helped to improve the profiles' robustness, accuracy and relevance.

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
<p>918(XLVII) – Strategic framework and biennial programme plan for the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 2016–2017</p> <p>2. <i>Calls on</i> the Committee for Programme and Coordination to support the biennial programme plan for the Economic Commission for Africa 2016–2017 and to ensure that the necessary resources are made available for its effective implementation;</p> <p>3. <i>Urges</i> the United Nations Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that Africa's development remains a top priority for the United Nations development agenda, with a view to enabling African countries to meet their development goals;</p> <p>4. <i>Calls for</i> the enhanced use of results-based management approaches for better accountability and impact in programme delivery.</p>	<p>The following progress has been achieved in fulfilment of the provisions of resolution 918(XLVII):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Committee for Programme and Coordination has approved, with minor amendments, the 2016–2017 strategic framework upon which the 2016–2017 proposed programme budget has been developed. The 2016–2017 proposed programme budget is currently undergoing the normal process of review within the United Nations Secretariat, with the expectation of its approval in December 2015, as ECA has fully complied with the guidelines for preparation of the 2016–2017 proposed programme budget and the related General Assembly-mandated requirements. • Pursuant to paragraph 3 of the resolution, with the Millennium Development Goals concluding at the end of 2015, world leaders have called for an ambitious, long-term agenda to improve people's lives and protect the planet for future generations. The United Nations is currently working with governments, civil society and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the goals and to press ahead with an ambitious post-2015 sustainable development agenda, which is expected to be adopted by Member States at the Special Summit on Sustainable Development, to be convened in September 2015. World leaders are expected to agree on an historic and far-reaching agenda for the next 15 years. • In order for Africa to be at the forefront of this continuing discussion, the Secretary-General has participated in several intergovernmental meetings organized by the African Union to promote international cooperation for Africa's development and to support the Union's member States in tackling their development challenges. The Secretary-General continues to seek support from the General Assembly to enhance international support for Africa's development, specifically through the allocation of funds for NEPAD and the regular programme of technical cooperation for capacity development in Africa, which is geared towards achieving inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in support of accelerating Africa's structural transformation, in line with the priorities and vision articulated in the African Union's Agenda 2063, the NEPAD programme and the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, as and when approved. • Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the resolution, ECA has constructed its performance management dashboard, an executive management tool that combines critical strategic, operational and financial information to aid timely decision-making. It aims at supporting the sustained, integrated and coherent management of performance and is responsive to the ECA mission of serving as a think tank of reference on African development policy issues. • The dashboard is organized into four thematic clusters: policy influence; credibility and trust; accountability and learning; and operational effectiveness. These clusters are underpinned by ten strategic result areas, which are further divided into 39 strategic results, and these, in turn, are measured using key performance indicators. The dashboard provides periodic management performance feedback loops on the implementation of the ECA programme of work, business strategies and operations to facilitate early corrective interventions, accountability and reporting. 	<p>The following progress has been achieved in fulfilment of the provisions of resolution 918(XLVII):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Committee for Programme and Coordination has approved, with minor amendments, the 2016–2017 strategic framework upon which the 2016–2017 proposed programme budget has been developed. 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Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECA has adopted an evaluation policy to ensure that its programmes and projects consistently respond to the criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. The policy governs the Commission's evaluation function and applies to all initiatives supported and funds administered by ECA. The policy anticipates strong interlinkages with two other key organizational functions, namely, monitoring and knowledge management, as essential to an effective overall evidence-based approach to organizational learning and accountability. ECA has also adopted an operational quality policy and plan for the period 2014–2017, to guide the planning, deployment, monitoring and evaluation of its quality assurance activities. The quality assurance system will cover all ECA knowledge products and services, strategic planning instruments and reports, and business processes. An ECA quality assurance manual is under preparation to provide further guidance to subprogrammes, enabling them to fulfil their quality assurance obligations. In combination, the above-mentioned instruments constitute the ECA strategic planning and accountability system, which serves enables it to act as a single and cohesive entity in priority-setting, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation and reporting on results. The strategic planning and accountability system makes possible the identification and tracking of results, thus effectively influencing policies for structural transformation across the region.
919 (XLVII) – Green economy and structural transformation in Africa		
<p>1. <i>Calls upon</i> the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other development partners to support African countries in strengthening their capacity to formulate, adopt and implement inclusive green economy policies in the context of accelerating structural transformation in the region;</p> <p>2. <i>Invites</i> multilateral agencies, bilateral partners, foundations, research institutions and universities to work with the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme to provide technical assistance and financial resources to enable member States to usher in a favorable business environment that will leverage technological opportunities, optimize entrepreneurial development, enable economic growth through the greening of key productive sectors to generate new jobs, and enhance the quality of life of African people.</p>		<p>Pursuant to the provisions of resolution 919 (XLVII), ECA has launched the preparation of a wide range of reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response, in particular, to the provisions of paragraph 1 of the resolution, it has prepared a number of reports and products designed to enhance understanding, strengthen capacity, inform and promote the formulation and implementation of policies to achieve an inclusive green transformation and realize optimal benefits from Africa's key natural resources and related sectors, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “<i>Green economy policies in Africa: inclusive green economy policies and structural transformation in selected African countries</i>”: this report is aimed at exploring the linkages and the contribution of inclusive green economy policies and strategies to structural transformation in African countries. It will examine the role of inclusive green economy policies in fostering the structural transformation agenda, and provide recommendations on the development and implementation of such policies that reinforce structural transformation in the Africa. The report will be informed by in-depth studies being undertaken in five selected countries (Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Tunisia) and surveys in 10 other countries (Algeria, Cameroon, Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa). Four of the study reports have been submitted at validation meetings in the respective countries and are currently being finalized. The Mozambique study report currently under preparation will be submitted for validation in February 2015. The key intermediate results from the country validation meetings are: enhanced understanding, multi-stakeholder dialogue, networking and coordination on inclusive green economy policies that foster structural transformation in countries. The main report will be produced in the first half of 2015. “<i>Means of implementation for sustainable development in Africa: Enabling measures for an inclusive green economy in Africa</i>”: this report, which is being produced in collaboration with UNEP, explores the implications of the green economy transition for Africa. It identifies and analyses the necessary enabling measures for a smooth transition. These include: institutions and policies; policy instruments; green technology development and transfer; capacity development; and financing an inclusive green economy in Africa. The role of the private sector in the transition is well articulated in all the thematic chapters. The report puts forward policy recommendations to foster the adoption and implementation of measures that facilitate the transition to an inclusive green economy in Africa. It has been reviewed at an ad hoc expert group meeting attended by partner institutions, including AUC, the African Development Bank, UNEP and UNDR, and is in the process of being finalized.

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Sustainable development report on Africa: Integrated assessment tools and methodologies for inclusive green economies in Africa”</i>: this report is intended to enhance understanding on the application of various tools and methodologies for integrated assessment, taking into account the different stages of the policy cycle and the circumstances and specific features of Africa where statistical capacity and data availability and quality are concerned. The climate-resilient and green economy strategy of Ethiopia is used as a case study to illustrate the practical application of integrated tools and methodologies to an inclusive green economy-related strategy. The report will propose the most suitable methodologies and tools for an integrated assessment of inclusive green economy policies in Africa; and provide a set of action-oriented recommendations on tools and methodologies for detailed study, capacity development and advocacy activities. The report was tabled at an ad hoc expert group meeting in November, attended by partner institutions including AUC, the NEPAD Agency, the African Development Bank, UNEP and UNDP. The report is currently being finalized. • In addition to the above-mentioned reports, the fifth issue of the <i>Sustainable Development Report on Africa</i> has been prepared, under the theme “Achieving sustainable development in Africa through inclusive green growth”. The partner institutions involved in its production were FAO, UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UNDP. The report provides a holistic assessment of progress towards sustainable development in Africa, using an indicator framework that covers the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, along with governance aspects. It examines the challenges and opportunities for inclusive green growth in selected sectors of the economy where targeted investments with accompanying enabling measures could spur inclusive green growth. • The report was informed, among other things, by good practice case-study reports commissioned in Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco and South Africa. It is aimed at facilitating knowledge networking among member States and regional and subregional organizations, thus promoting the sharing of good practices and success stories. It also aims to inform future initiatives on inclusive green growth in Africa. The publication will be launched in the first half of 2015. • In addition, ECA is in the process of preparing policy and research papers on a wide range of issues relating to inclusive green economy and growth. The intention is to ensure the availability of relevant and up-to-date research results in easily accessible formats, to inform policy decisions and actions that foster inclusive green transformation. <p>In response to the provisions of paragraph 2 of the resolution, ECA has prepared the following outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Unlocking Full Potentials of the Blue Economy: Are African SIDS Ready to Embrace the Opportunities?</i> The blue economy approach, which has the same desired outcome as the green economy, is regarded as offering a sustainability methodology closely aligned to the particular circumstances, constraints and challenges of the African small island developing States. The report was prepared with the aim of bolstering ECA support for climate change adaptation efforts; addressing the adverse effects of climate change in key economic sectors such as tourism and fisheries; and unlocking the potential of renewable energy sources in African small island developing States. • The report explores the pathways for development of the different blue economy sectors in such African island States. It also highlights the need for institutional arrangements to facilitate the sharing of experiences, pursuit of mutual goals and sharing of resources across the six African small island developing States in the various sectors of the blue economy. One of the key recommendations in the report is that the international community, including mainland Africa, must make technologies accessible, affordable and adaptable to the needs and particular circumstances of African small island developing States. The report has been widely disseminated at such meetings as the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to 4 September 2014; the Climate Summit on 22 September 2014 and the fourth annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, held in Marrakech from 8 to 10 October 2014.

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Subregional Office for North Africa has prepared two country profiles on the green economy, for Tunisia and Morocco, and a third, for Algeria, is under preparation. The Office has also launched four case studies – for Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia – on green industry and economy. The studies are aimed at providing an overview of the perceptions, practices, needs and expectations of corporate entities with regard to the green economy. The lessons drawn from these studies will guide the definition of the conditions necessary to encourage the contribution of businesses to the national effort for structural transformation of economies, efficient use of natural resources and alleviation of poverty and inequality.
920(XLVII) – Extraordinary meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance		
No action requested from ECA		
921 (XLVII) – Agricultural transformation for an industrialized Africa		
No action requested from ECA		

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
<p>922(XLVII) – Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa</p> <p>Requests that the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission, together with the regional economic communities and other partner institutions, cement industrialization in the post-2015 development agenda and the Agenda 2063 framework, and continue to research how countries can rework industrial policy as a means of achieving sustainable and inclusive economic transformation.</p>	<p><i>We deliberated on the theme, "Industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa", a subject that has gained momentum owing to the renewed recognition of its potential, role and importance in accelerating and sustaining Africa's growth and emergence. We debated the theme with the shared conviction that industrialization is one of the most viable paths to employment-generating growth and development, and a core prerequisite for the structural transformation of the continent. Our discussions built on the key messages that emanated from the sixth Joint Annual Meetings, which were held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2013.</i></p> <p><i>We recognize the imperative of overcoming the various shortcomings of our current growth experience by taking immediate and appropriate action to promote inclusive and equitable development that will propel Africa towards structural transformation. To this end, redressing the continent's continued overreliance on the exploitation of raw materials, with limited value addition, is of critical importance. The urgency of doing so is underscored by the fact that the current commodity-based growth trajectory has not proved capable of generating jobs at a rate sufficient to bring people into gainful and productive employment on a large scale.</i></p> <p><i>We applaud the wisdom of our leaders in proposing Agenda 2063 to guide continental transformation for the next fifty years and achieve a paradigm shift away from short-term approaches and scenarios. We commend the strong emphasis in the process of framing Agenda 2063 placed on the central role that industrialization must play in ensuring that our continent is able to achieve its aspirations for a structural transformation that boosts our economies, empowers our citizens and advances African integration.</i></p>	<p>Pursuant to the provisions of resolution 922(XLVII), ECA, through its Regional Integration and Trade Division, has continued to contribute to the debate on industrialization for inclusive and transformative development in Africa. In that connection, it has scored the following achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, the 2014 edition of the <i>Economic Report on Africa</i>, with the theme: "Dynamic industrial policy in Africa: innovative institutions, effective processes and flexible mechanisms," analysed the constraints on and opportunities for industrialization in Africa by examining the role of institutions in developing and implementing an effective industrial policy. The report was prepared jointly by ECA and AUC, and was launched at the seventh Joint Annual Meetings in Abuja in March 2014. The report promoted an integrated development policy framework for industrial policy effectiveness and suggested an organic policy framework for sustained progress towards structural transformation. • Second, the 2015 edition of the <i>Economic Report on Africa</i>, with the theme: "Industrialization through trade", builds on the findings of the previous two editions of the report by exploring the role of trade and trade policy in promoting industrialization and economic transformation. Based on available empirical evidence, the report analyses whether and how Africa's trade performance has supported the continent's transformation agenda and, in particular, the extent to which it has fostered industrialization. It specifically looks at African countries' trade performance in the global context, characterized by the emergence of global value chains and the surge in preferential trade agreements, both bilateral and regional. The report ultimately argues that the use of strategic trade policy can enhance the relationship between trade and industrialization, and thus promote positive spillovers from engagement in regional and global markets towards more inclusive development. The report is to be launched in March 2015. • In addition, at the country level, ECA supported the Government of Swaziland in developing its comprehensive and stand-alone industrial and trade policy, which articulates the Government's economic thinking relating to industry and trade intervention measures and defines strategies to drive the country's sustainable development in support of other programs to achieve country's Vision 2022 targets. • Furthermore, between May and July 2014, ECA conducted a review of industrial policies and strategy in Africa in six countries – Gabon, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Swaziland and Zambia – to provide information on the development of industrial capabilities across the continent in order to fill the observed gap in that area. The review is based on quantitative and qualitative evidence on current industrial policies and initiatives, and on the status and trend of industrial indicators.

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
	<p><i>We commend the adoption of the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and welcome the overarching goal of the Common African Position, which is to place Africa's structural transformation goals at the heart of the post-2015 global development agenda. We strongly urge the international community, including all of our development partners, to embrace the Common African Position when formulating the global agenda.</i></p>	
<p>923 (XLVII) – Post-2015 development agenda</p> <p>8. <i>Calls upon</i> the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the African Capacity-Building Foundation, to fast-track the establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics and the African Statistics Training Centre, in accordance with the decision made by Heads of State and Government;</p> <p>9. <i>Requests</i> the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme to facilitate regular expert dialogue between development planners and statisticians, with the purpose of embedding statistics in planning and management for results, so that Africa's transformative programme is achieved;</p> <p>10. <i>Further requests</i> the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the regional economic communities, with the support of partners, to organize a high-level conference in 2014 to discuss the data revolution in Africa and its implications for the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the post-2015 development agenda.</p>	<p>In fulfilment of the provisions of resolution 923(XLVII), ECA has taken the following steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the African Centre for Statistics, it has been working with AUC on the establishment of the African Union Institute for Statistics and the African Statistics Training Centre, the former to be based in Tunis and the latter in Yamoussoukro. Key achievements are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Development of a road map for the setting up of the African Institute of Statistics and the Pan-African Statistical Training Centre – Various meetings held with the Tunisian and Ivorian authorities to discuss the modalities of establishing the institute and the training centre – Finalization of the institutional arrangements, including the structural organization and the choice of location – Development of a long-term resources mobilization strategy. • In December 2014, ECA, AUC and the African Development Bank organized the first joint session of the Committee of Directors General of African National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa, to consider issues of concern relating to the development and methodology of statistics at the national and continental levels. The sixth Forum on African Statistical Development was convened as a side event at the joint session, giving development partners and countries the possibility to share best practices on the funding and delivery of technical assistance in support of statistical development in Africa. • The tenth African Symposium on Statistical Development was jointly organized in January 2015 in Kampala by ECA, the African Development Bank, AUC and other partners, to review the result of the 2010 round of population censuses and progress made in the area of civil registration and vital statistics. In February 2015, the third session of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Civil Registration was held in Yamoussoukro. • ECA and its partners have finalized arrangements for the high-level conference to be held as a preparatory event for the eighth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The meeting will take place from 27 to 29 March 2015 in Addis Ababa. • The conference has been organized around so-called “data communities” – groups that share a social, economic or professional interest in data production, management, dissemination and use. The conference's output will be in the form of an African data consensus on the key principles of a new data ecosystem for the post-2015 sustainable development goals, including a road map for implementing the data revolution in Africa. The draft African data consensus prepared by the data communities will be reviewed by a panel made up of policymakers and leading theoreticians, before being submitted to the Conference of Ministers for endorsement and adoption. 	

Resolutions	Ministerial statement	Actions taken
925 (XLVII) – Productivity, competitiveness and industrialization No action requested from ECA		
926 (XLVII) – Alternative sources of financing for the African Union		
2. <i>Requests</i> the African Union Commission, with the support of the Economic Commission for Africa and members of the ministerial working group, to examine the African Union's budget targets for the next three-year period, including the budget for peace and security, and to come up with implementation mechanisms based on the two options proposed in the report of the High-level Panel as well as additional new options, with the findings of the working group to be considered by Ministers of Finance on the margins of the World Economic Forum that is to be held from 7 to 9 May 2014 in Abuja;		In fulfilment of the provisions of resolution 926 (XLVII), the following activities have been undertaken: The work on the alternative financing of the African Union was carried out through the Regional Integration and Trade Division of ECA and AUC. The resulting report is now completed and was endorsed by the ministerial working group in the margins of the 2014 Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in Washington, D.C., in October 2014. The report was presented for the consideration of the Assembly of the African Union in January 2015.
927 (XLVII) – African Risk Capacity agency: sovereign disaster risk solutions		
No action requested from ECA		

