

## **Launch of ECA country profiles as policy making tools for structural transformation**

**Addis Ababa, 23 Jan. 2014 (ECA)** - A new data and forecasting tool aimed at helping African countries refocus their energies on macroeconomic and social policies to achieve structural transformation across the continent, will be launched on ... at the UN Conference Centre in Addis Ababa. The launch of the **ECA Country Profiles** (CPs) will be a key moment of the 8th Joint Annual Meeting of the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (CoM2015), during which a first selection of five CPs will be published. It is to be recalled that the concept note defining the CPs was presented and endorsed during CoM2014 in Abuja, Nigeria.

*The **ECA Country Profiles*** will provide periodic assessments of both macroeconomic and social performance, and offer concrete and strategic recommendations to national and regional bodies. They will also serve as a valuable and unique source of comparative data catering to the needs of academia, civil society and analysts.

One of the tool's cutting edges is derived from a sound methodology based on the joint gathering of data with credible national sources (including national statistical offices, finance ministries and central banks) and other stakeholders, as well as on its timely periodic release.

ECA's Executive Secretary, Mr. Carlos Lopes, stresses that "the new Country Profiles are not meant to duplicate existing publications by other institutions, but rather to provide a unique overview of challenges and opportunities for structural transformation."

In addition to providing up-to-date sector analyses, the **ECA Country Profiles** will monitor progress made in the light of the post-2015 Development. The ultimate objective is to support collective efforts to achieve the *Agenda 63 Vision* on Africa's socioeconomic transformation.