



**Economic Commission for Africa
Committee of Experts**
Thirty-fifth meeting

**African Union
Committee of Experts**
Second meeting

**Ninth 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, 31 March - 2 April 2016

Report of the ninth session of the committee on Sustainable Development [final version]

I. Introduction

1. The ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development was held on 16 June 2015 at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in Addis Ababa.
2. The objectives of the ninth session were to review and provide guidance on the ECA sub-programme on innovation, technology and the management of Africa's natural resources, to oversee the implementation of its 2014–2015 work programme, and to review the priorities of the sub-programme for the 2016–2017 work programme in the context of the ECA strategic framework and proposed programme budget for the 2016–2017 biennium.
3. The present report sets out the proceedings of the sessions of the Committee.

II. Attendance

4. The ninth Session of the Committee was attended by representatives of all 54 member States, namely: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe,

Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

5. The African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the African Development Bank also participated in the deliberations. Three regional economic communities also took part in the deliberations, namely, the Arab Maghreb Union, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Economic Community of West African States. Representatives of all of the nine major groups recognized at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, were also present, namely, women; children and youth; farmers; indigenous peoples; non-governmental organizations; trade unions; local authorities; science and technology; and business and industry.

6. Observers from the following funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system were present: the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN-Women.

7. A representative of the European Union also attended the meetings.

8. The complete list of participants is attached and can also be accessed from <http://uneca.org/csd-9-and-arfsd>.

III. Proceedings of the ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development

A. Opening of the session

9. Opening statements were made by Ms. Fatima Denton, Director of the Special Initiatives Division of ECA and Mr. Blaise Edouard Ngouende, Minister-Counsellor at the Embassy of the Congo in Ethiopia, and representing the Congo as Chair of the outgoing Bureau. Mr. Thierry Amoussougbo, Senior Programme Management Officer, African Climate Policy Centre of the Special Initiatives Division, moderated the opening of the session.

10. Mr. Thierry Amoussougbo welcomed the delegates to the ninth session and introduced the outgoing Bureau of the eighth session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development. That Bureau had comprised the Congo (Chair), Egypt (First Vice-Chair), Liberia (Second Vice-Chair), Uganda (Third Vice-Chair) and Malawi (Rapporteur).

11. Mr. Ngouende, speaking on behalf of the President of the Congo, His Excellency, Denis Sassou Nguesso, explained that the ninth session would serve as a platform for the upcoming Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. He thanked the member States for having elected the Congo as Chair of the eighth session and commended the members of the outgoing Bureau for their work during the eighth session.

12. He said that while the recent steady growth of African economies – of more than 5 per cent per year – was commendable, behind those economic gains was a different reality. Africa's economic growth was based on the exploitation of non-renewable resources, which did not create enough jobs. The continent's population was growing, while production models, which had shaped the mainstream thinking of development strategies, had resulted in heavy pollution and socioeconomic discrepancies. Africa was affected by hunger, poverty and many social ills, which contrasted sharply with the economic growth figures

reported. He therefore called for changes to the African vision and for the need to foster sustainable development in the region.

13. Without changing the vision on the continent's development, there was a risk of disillusionment, as it was estimated that the continent's youth population would increase by 29 per cent by 2050, with more than two thirds of young people jobless. In addition, to avoid disastrous consequences as a result of misuse of natural resources, Africa needed to embark on enhanced protection of the environment and inclusive sustainable development. The Committee had, therefore, enormous responsibilities and challenges to address.

14. Noting that 2015 was a critical year with regard to addressing climate-related development challenges and that the Committee had a great opportunity to contribute to the debate by defining a clear work programme, on behalf of the outgoing Bureau he called upon the delegates to come up with innovative solutions and strategies to address Africa's priorities on climate change and sustainable development in general.

15. Speaking on behalf of Mr. Carlos Lopes, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECA, Ms. Fatima Denton said that the objectives of the meeting were threefold: first, to review and provide guidance for the ECA subprogramme on innovation, technology and the management of Africa's natural resources; second, to oversee the implementation of the 2014–2015 work programme and the priorities of the subprogramme for 2016–2017 in the context of the Commission's strategic work and proposed programme budget for the two bienniums; and third, to provide a platform for the 2015 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the upcoming meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

16. She said that following the eighth session, ECA had reviewed its strategic orientation to align its programmatic activities and organizational framework to Africa's transformation agenda. The review had been carried out following a comprehensive internal review of the Commission's mandate and broad consultations with member States and other stakeholders. The Special Initiatives Division had been created to focus on four thematic areas of the subprogramme, with a view to supporting member States in the areas of (i) social, economic and environmental innovation and technological systems as engines of economic growth; (ii) mineral resources and development in the context of the Africa Mining Vision; (iii) inclusive green transformation and development and (iv) addressing climate change in key sectors, and plans and mechanisms to reflect national development priorities, policies, strategies and programmes.

17. She explained that the ninth session of the Committee had been convened to review the implementation of the subprogramme since its inception in 2013. In addition to statutory and programmatic matters related to the work of the ECA subprogramme, the Committee was also meeting to provide a clear understanding of Africa's priorities and key messages for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. She concluded by thanking the members of the outgoing Bureau and the whole Committee for their guidance and unwavering support to ECA.

B. Organizational matters

1. Election of the Bureau for the ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development

18. Mr. Ngouende, presiding over the election of the Bureau for the ninth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development, explained the procedure

for electing the Bureau, emphasizing the rationale of geographic representation and the principle of rotation.

19. Following deliberations, the Committee elected the following countries to constitute its Bureau, on the basis of rotational subregional representation:

Chair:	Senegal
First Vice-Chair:	Sudan
Second Vice-Chair:	Gabon
Third Vice-Chair:	Kenya
Rapporteur:	Malawi

2. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

The Chair invited the Committee to consider the agenda and programme of work for the session. The agenda and programme of work were adopted without amendments.

C. Introduction and objectives of the session

20. Thierry Amoussougbo, Senior Programme Management Officer, African Climate Policy Centre of the Special Initiatives Division presented the background and objectives of the session, as outlined in section I above. The representative also explained the rationale for changing the name of the Committee from the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development to the Committee on Sustainable Development. The Committee had been known as the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development from 1999 until 2013, when ECA was restructured, and was the statutory committee for the subprogramme. The name change had not affected its composition and focus, as the Committee remained both a technical and legislative organ that brought together high-level experts and policymakers representing the three constituents of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental) and that met every two years to provide guidance on how ECA could improve its support to member States.

21. The Committee would continue to serve as a platform to assess progress made by the subprogramme in implementing the sustainable development commitments. The change to the Committee on Sustainable Development was in line with the Commission's repositioning, which sought to respond to Africa's evolving needs and demands for structural transformation. Africa was a continent that was rising in terms of population, growth and urbanization, and was facing the effects of climate change and depletion of natural resources. ECA had therefore aligned its subprogrammes and intergovernmental machinery to Africa's structural transformation agenda, with a view to making the Commission a think tank and knowledge-based institution of reference providing high-quality, up-to-date data and knowledge products on science-based policy processes. The Special Initiatives Division had been established to implement the subprogramme on innovation, technology and the management of Africa's natural resources.

22. The objective of the Committee on Sustainable Development was to review and provide guidance on the subprogramme; to provide guidance in the areas of food security, agriculture, land, climate change, the green economy, natural resource development and management; to assess the implementation of the subprogramme; and to serve as a platform for the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. During the ninth session of the Committee, presentations would be given on the implementation of the programme of work of the subprogramme for 2014 and 2015 and comments and guidance elicited

on how ECA could improve the implementation of the programme of work. The secretariat would present the strategic programme for 2016 and 2017 and would elicit comments from the delegates with a view to reaching consensus on how the subprogramme could be aligned with Africa's priorities, in support of the region's transformation agenda.

23. Mr. Amoussougbo concluded by calling on the delegates to provide such comments and guidance in the form of recommendations to ECA, member States and ECA partners.

D. Presentation and discussion of the parliamentary report entitled "Harnessing innovation, technology and the management of Africa's natural resources for Africa's transformation: challenges and opportunities"

1. Presentation

24. Ms Fatima Denton, the Director of the Special Initiatives Division presented the over view of the parliamentary report on "Harnessing innovations, technologies and management of Africa's natural resources for Africa's transformation: challenges and opportunities". She said that Africa was growing but not succeeding in reducing poverty, as growth was not inclusive; there had not been shared benefits; and there was increasing youth unemployment. Africa's wealth lay in natural resources but these natural resources were finite, the ecosystems were fragile, and that there was need to embrace new sectors, service industries as Africa had not fully benefited from the value chain. Africa was a major producer of primary products but that the majority was exported to developed countries. She gave the example of coffee whereby 90 per cent of revenue from Africa's coffee goes to developed countries. She then underscored the paradox of Africa with its abundant natural resources and the poverty of its people.

25. Natural resources had their own limits and therefore the questions were how to: harness these resources for growth in other areas; move from polluting to cleaner economy; and enhance smart innovations and cleaner technologies. Additionally the critical problem was that the food production system was dysfunctional; and mineral resources operated as an enclave industry not translated into the shared growth that could lift the continent out of poverty. The key issues that the Division would focus on were: using climate change as a business opportunity by looking at agriculture as a booming enterprise; building human and institutions to support knowledge generation; adopting green economy to improve development outcomes through technology and innovation that enables to leapfrog; and moving to less polluting consumption patterns. Innovation could play a role to moving to low carbon development. There were parallels: they all required transformational thinking and a paradigm shift. There was also the issue of sustainable management of natural resources, which could lead to accelerated growth. She noted that many of African institutions were not able to support the level of changes that are required to transition to green economy, climate change resilience, harnessing science, technology and innovation for sustainable development and using mineral resources for broad based sustainable development.

26. The following presentations focused on the four work areas of the subprogramme were made after Ms. Fatima's overview:

(a) Mr. Kasirim Nwuke, Chief of New Technology and Innovation Section (NTIS) gave a presentation on NTIS. He indicated that the main objective focused on research, policy development and analytical work to support member States to adopt new technologies and innovation policies and

strategies needed to build the technical competencies and entrepreneurial capacity. The Section sought to innovate as well as to put in place efficient mechanisms to acquire appropriate technologies. The research undertaken would also help countries to assess the impact of new technologies on economic and social development as engines of economic growth. In terms of strategic approach, the presenter indicated that NTIS contributed to creating an integrated science, technology and innovation policy and system in development planning. The Section supported member States in their efforts to build a knowledge-based economy. The priorities areas of policy research and knowledge generation of the Section included innovation systems and policy research, country profiles, technology development and transfer, new and emerging technologies and industries, youth and innovation, improving access to broadband towards building the knowledge economy, ICT and economic growth among others. With regards to challenges, he stressed the lack of financial resources,

(b) Ms. Isatou Gaye, Chief of Green Economy and Natural Resources Section (GENRS) made a presentation on the work of the section. She indicated that the objective of this section was to contribute to the body of knowledge and enhance understanding on the implications of the inclusive green economy paradigm for Africa's transformational agenda. The work of the section derived from the outcome document of Rio +20 and the outcomes cover all three dimensions of sustainable development. The approach was promoting green economy in key sector at first as well as integrating policy approach to mainstream the three dimension of sustainable development. The priorities work areas of the Section were: examining the implications of the transition for Africa's transformation; leveraging opportunities for inclusive green growth – in key sectors; analysing enablers of the transition in the context of Africa; promoting planning tools and methodologies to support integrated policy making and assessments, and statistical capacities in Africa; and fostering natural resource use efficiency. The presenter underscored also that GENRS was faced with many challenges including inadequate understanding of the concept as well as capacity issues. The concept is relatively new and many did not know what it meant for Africa and for national priorities. Green economy was not only a technical issue of design and implementation but also a political choice.

(c) Mr. Kojo Busia, Officer in charge of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC), gave a presentation on the centre, which had been launched in December 2013. He started by providing an overview of the Africa Mining Vision (AMV), a new social contract, which strived to 'create a transparent, equitable and optimal exploitation of mineral resources to underpin broad-based sustainable growth and socio-economic development'. He underscored AMV's tenets for sustainable development including diversification, social and economic linkages; transparency and accountability; good governance in which communities and citizens participate equitably; a viable artisanal and small scale mining; environmental and social responsibility based on sustainable development principles; and building human and institutional capacities to create knowledge at all levels of the mining value chain. Mr. Busia then highlighted AMDC's mission and objective, as the vehicle for the implementation of the AMV. He indicated AMDC's strategic approach; priority areas of work; expected outcomes; key achievements; and challenges and opportunities. Concerning challenges and opportunities, he stressed the lack of awareness about the AMV and lack of ownership by countries; the multiplicity of partners and lack of coordination in countries as well as the transition of the AMDC to an AU Specialised Agency.

(d) Mr. Johnson Nkem, Senior Adaptation Officer, African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) gave a presentation on the work of this Centre. He highlighted the link between climate change and development. He provided an

overview on the Centre, which he said, served as the secretariat of ClimDev-Africa initiative, a joint programme set up at high-political level by ECA, AfDB and AUC to address the impacts of climate change on Africa's development. The vision of ClimDev-Africa was to promote a sustainable attainment of poverty reduction and other MDGs in Africa through policies and decisions that take full account of the risks and opportunities related to climate change at all levels (regional, sub-regional, national, local, community and individual). ClimDev-Africa vision was operationalized through implementing activities that: (i) enhance the scientific basis/operational infrastructures, (ii) improve frameworks for decision-making, awareness and advocacy and (iii) strengthen partnerships between government institutions, private sector, civil society and vulnerable communities. The programme combined the efforts and leadership of the three major African wide institutions, ECA, AUC and AfDB, to tackle the issue of climate change in Africa. Through ACPC, ECA generated knowledge and analytical inputs to inform policy with regard to climate change. AfDB demonstrated return on investments in climate information in order to optimize new investments in climate information and services in Africa, while AUC enabled policy formulation and uptake regarding climate change at the highest level. Since its launch in 2010, ClimDev-Africa had provided various analytical work and operational support to several African countries including small island countries, and some RECs including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the East African Community (EAC). It had also provided platforms for dialogue, awareness raising, ideas and knowledge sharing at national, regional, continental and international levels. ACPC was also building and strengthening the capacities of national hydrological and meteorological agencies in order to enhance climate information and services supply in Africa. It had also carried out capacity enhancement for African youths and young lawyers in the area of climate change. Through ClimDev Special Fund (CDSF), located within AfDB, 56 out of 93 climate-related projects submitted from across the continent had been selected as bankable. The programme was being supported by USAID, DFID, NORDIC Development Fund, EU and Sweden.

2. Discussion

27. During the ensuing discussions, the committee raised the following issues.

(a) All parties to the UNFCCC were required to prepare Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). In this regard, ECA through ACPC was providing specific support to Africa countries in order to put them at the same level. The support was on methodology used as there was no uniformity and countries were not at the same level. There were analyses made on the distinctions between adaptation and mitigation to inform how to associate development priorities with INDCs. African countries should submit their INDCs or the progress made in the preparation of INDCs as there is need to have an overall evaluation before Paris.

(b) Issues related to marginalized groups appeared not to be adequately included in the work of the subprogramme. Specifically issues such as gender and gender equality needed to be integrated into and addressed in policies promoted by the subprogramme. Following the response by the Secretariat, the Committee noted that the Division worked closely with the African Centre for Gender on gender issues. Noteworthy was the work of the African Minerals Development Centre, which had a programme on women in artisanal and small-scale mining.

(c) Coordination and synergies between different processes and initiatives, such as AMCEN to avoid duplication and enhance exchange of experiences was highlighted. It was also important to ensure coordination of the activities of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN), AMCEN, the Committee

of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) – to avoid duplication and possible neglect of certain important areas. On this issue, the Committee noted that the Division was working with AMCEN and worked collaboratively with AGN and had a number of ongoing collaborative initiatives in this regard.

(d) The Committee welcomed the establishment of the AMDC and suggested that the centre should look critically at the link between conflict and minerals, as there was no sustainable development without peace.

(e) On regional integration, ECA was working closely with RECs. The Committee noted the work of AMDC which was able to translate the regional Africa Mining Vision at the country level through the Country Mining Visions (CMVs), as well as the work of ACPC which was setting up observation systems as countries could not adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change without good observation systems.

(f) It was important to strengthen capacity for negotiating mining contracts.

(g) Establishing partnership with other African initiatives, including parliamentary networks was emphasized.

(h) There was lack of information with regard to mineral resources in terms of quantity, which was crucial in increasing their bargaining power during contract negotiations.

(i) There was need for value addition, beneficiation and linking minerals to the industrialization agenda of the continent and link to regional integration.

(j) Energy was important as the basis for development on the continent and that it should come out more prominently. There was a need for ECA to take into account the importance of the energy in development of the mineral sector. In this connection, it was important to take into account priority areas for NEPAD's energy programme including bio-energy development for energy and food security, energy accessibility through renewable energy solutions, development of the continent's nuclear power resources and energy efficiency.

(k) There was concern that Africa was being called upon to support/contribute to the fight against climate change even though it was not part of its origin. It was pointed out that Annex 1 countries were supposed to support African countries for climate change initiatives, but the region had not benefitted much from that support.

(l) There was need to use appropriate technology and innovation to address environmental issues and industrialization as well as climate change adaptation and resilience. New and green technologies needed to be rolled out in a manner to support sustainable development. There was therefore a need to link the work of NTIS to the future of technology development as agreed at Rio+20. The building and strengthening of STI systems was needed in order to succeed in advancing science and technology. The digital revolution as an optimization of environmental and social transformation was also important.

(m) There was need to protect natural resource noting that restrictions are necessary for example to track the use/exploitation of these resources. Emphasis was also made on the crucial importance of sustainable management of land and therefore embarking on appropriate support programmes for member States faced with land degradation.

(n) Health was central to sustainable development citing the example of the impact of Ebola of the three West African countries. As such issues of health needed to be taken into account in the work of the subprogramme

(o) There was need to document good practices in the main work areas of the subprogramme.

3. Recommendations

28. The Committee made the following recommendations:

- (i) Countries should be assisted to establish mineral policies, legal and regulatory frameworks to accompany mining codes.
- (ii) In order to maximize support to developing countries and for Africa to benefit from its accelerated growth and facilitate the conservation of resources, there should be more regional projects.
- (iii) African countries should be supported to develop and contribute to the establishment indicators for the post-2015 development agenda, which had SDGs at its centre. In this connection, the indicators to be developed needed to be appropriate to the region and measurable.
- (iv) The subprogramme should undertake research to provide concrete examples where ICT/STI and innovation technologies had contributed to sustainable development.
- (v) The subprogramme should develop and implement programmes to support and bring on board the private sector to promote green economy as an integral part of private sector initiatives and investments.
- (vi) Countries should be supported with technologies to ensure successful implementation programmes to achieve the 17 sustainable development goals.
- (vii) The digital age agenda should be integrated in the promotion green economy and natural resources development.
- (viii) Regional health systems should be established to respond to future disease outbreaks.

E. Presentation and discussion of the report on progress in the implementation of the 2014–2015 programme of work of the ECA subprogramme on innovation, technology and the management of Africa’s natural resources

1. Presentation

29. Under this agenda item, Ms. Fatima presented the progress in the implementation of the 2014–2015 programme of work of the ECA subprogramme on innovation, technology and the management of Africa’s natural resources. She highlighted the objective subprogramme on innovation, technology and the management of Africa’s natural resources, which was led by the Special Initiatives Division (SID). The subprogramme was implemented through four the four entities of the Division, namely, the New Technologies and Innovation Section, the Green Economy and Natural Resources Section, , the African Minerals Development Centre and the African Climate policy Centre.

30. The Director highlighted the expected accomplishments and outputs of the subprogramme, including the indicators and metrics for assessing success.

Among the key accomplishments for each of the four entities of the Division were the following:

(a) *New Technologies and Innovation Section*: The work of the section included promoting uptake of technology and greater innovation in member States. To support that, a number of policy briefs had been prepared around issues such as e-commerce and cyber security. Other work entailed supporting countries and citizen engagement in science and technology as well as open data. There had been a review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and there had also been visiting fellows and interns supporting the wider work of the Section. The incorporation of research and development and information and communications technology in national development plans was something that the Section was eager to realize.

(b) *Green Economy and Natural Resources Section*: The Green Economy and Natural Resources Section was a new section working to help countries to achieve green transformation. Policy reforms for achieving green growth were important and it was necessary to re-configure economies to achieve a green economy. Ten reports had been prepared, including the third edition of the *Sustainable Development Report on Africa*. Work had been carried out on: inclusive green economy policies for structural transformation in selected countries; tools and methodologies for a green transition; and disaster risk reduction. The monitoring of sustainable development was an important area of ongoing work of the Section.

(c) *African Minerals Development Centre*: The Centre sought to enhance the capacities of member States to undertake minerals sector reform. The Africa Mining Vision provided direction to the work of the Centre on policies, governance, linkages, geology, artisanal and small-scale mining, and gender. The work of the Centre was demand-driven, so requests from countries opened the doors to deeper engagement. An assessment had been made of mining in Eritrea. Furthermore, there had been work on deep-sea mining and marine resources. There had also been work towards engaging the private sector in the implementation of the Africa Mining Vision.

(d) *African Climate Policy Centre*: The Centre was focused on increasing the number of member States that could factor climate change into their development plans. The fourth Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa had brought together development imperatives such as food security and economic development. A total of 11 papers and reports had been prepared on topics such as climate change and development issues for Small Island Developing States in Africa, and the relationship between the so-called BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and Africa. Another initiative was to take key development sectors and set out the opportunities under climate change, specifically related to water, food and income security. A six-point strategy had been prepared for climate-resilient economies. Climate information services had been supported in terms of infrastructure in three countries, including Ethiopia. There had also been work around intended nationally determined contributions and engaging young people, specifically lawyers, in such issues.

31. Going forward, the Division would provide enhanced support to African Small Island Developing States; promote the transition to a green economy and low-carbon climate-resilient development pathways; and encourage countries to engage and develop country-mining visions.

2. Discussion

32. During the ensuing discussion, the Committee raised the following issues:

(a) The African Union had a policy on space technology in the context of assessing mineral and other resources, and there was a partnership with the European Union in that regard. There was a need to know more about such technology as a tool for sustainable development.

(b) Although ECA had supported countries in the use of technology, there was a lack of property rights to protect innovators.

(c) Africa was not starting from scratch and there was a need to build on previous initiatives such as the flagship programmes of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and country studies, including green economy scoping studies.

(d) The green economy was very important. The development of the blue economy was crucial for Small Island Developing States, African countries with coastlines and those with large lakes.

(e) Poverty was an underlying factor that fomented insecurity in many parts of the world. Young people were particularly vulnerable to radicalization in areas where economic, environmental and social conditions were poor. Research had showed that environmental grievances had led to radicalization, for instance among some young people living in poverty in coastal areas.

(f) It was important for the African Climate Policy Centre to act as a steering body, collaborating with research institutions throughout Africa and help to ensure that there was a stronger response on climate change in the region.

(g) African countries tended to use the terms “green economy” and “green growth” interchangeably, but it was important to be explicit about what constituted green economy. Green economy was a developmental trajectory anchored on the management and conservation of natural resources with a view to addressing ecological scarcities, premised on the pursuance of resource efficiency programmes and cleaner production initiatives. Western countries tended to focus on green growth, underpinned by market access and the creation of new markets, in an attempt to recover economically following the global economic crisis, while developing countries were viewed as markets for their products and technologies as they leapfrogged their development focus towards transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

3. Recommendations

33. The Committee made the following specific recommendations:

(a) Small island developing States

While the attention paid by ECA to African Small Island Developing States was very much appreciated, the Commission should support the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway in order to realize benefits for Small Island Developing States.

(b) New technology and innovation

(i) To ensure that new and green technology was rolled out in a manner that supported sustainable development, there was a need to revisit the discussion of technology management mechanisms. It seemed that the call for such mechanisms had not been followed up properly since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. There was also a need to clarify the concept to ensure that the process could facilitate meaningful and substantial capacity-building and technical assistance for

developing countries with regard to technology transfer and deployment. ECA should therefore put together a team to revisit the issue and to develop terms of reference for a study, and to report to the Committee in due course. The matter should also be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

(c) Green economy and natural resources

- (i) A study should be carried out on the linkages between environmental degradation and insecurity. Some member States offered to provide evidence and information in that regard.
- (ii) The blue economy should be raised to the same level as the green economy in the post-2015 development framework.
- (iii) The ECA subprogramme should support African countries to pursue a green economy development pathway as one of the key tools towards transitioning to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and sustainable economy, with the potential to create jobs across many sectors of the economy, based on promoting national visions of an environmentally sustainable, climate-change resilient, low-carbon economy and just society.
- (iv) The following eight pillars for intervention could serve as a good basis for work on the green economy; namely, green building and the built environment; sustainable transport and infrastructure; clean energy and energy efficiency; natural resource conservation and management; sustainable waste management and practices; agriculture, food production and forestry; water management; and sustainable consumption and production.
- (v) Africa should take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the African Green Economy Partnership and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy to leverage support, capacity and other resource mobilization mechanisms to assist with the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of green economy programmes.
- (vi) Africa should ensure that the definition of green economy is that of inclusive development with an integrated focus on the three pillars of sustainable development, with poverty eradication being the overarching objective and the indispensable tool for achieving sustainable development.
- (vii) The ECA subprogramme should also refer to and integrate relevant programmes of work of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, such as Decision 15/1 on sustainably harnessing Africa's natural capital in the context of Agenda 2063, adopted in Cairo in March 2015.
- (viii) The High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa should make recommendations on how to reverse the illicit flow of financial resources arising from natural resources and how to industrialize and add value by harnessing natural capital.

(d) Mineral resources development

- (i) Assistance should be provided to the minerals sector in Africa to demonstrate commitment to social development, environmental management and economic development, with a view to enabling a globally competitive, sustainable and meaningfully transformed minerals sector on the continent.
- (ii) Sustainable development in the mining sector should embrace initiatives and policies emanating from the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,

the Global Compact and other relevant international and regional instruments.

- (iii) In order to ensure sustainable growth and the meaningful transformation of the mining industry, the sector should acknowledge and commit to mitigate various constraints such as infrastructure inadequacies, the scarcity of requisite skills, gaps in regulatory frameworks, environmental degradation as well as a lack of exploration and related research and development.
- (iv) The sector (in particular multinational corporations) should recognize the transformation backlog in the industry and the unsatisfactory pace of socioeconomic development in many communities where mineral exploitation takes place. The sector should be encouraged and assisted to integrate transformation priorities with measures to promote the globally competitive growth of the sector.
- (v) It was important for the subprogramme to take into account the importance of the energy sector in the context of the development of the mineral sector taking into consideration the priority areas energy programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). These priorities included bio-energy development for energy and food security, energy accessibility through renewable energy solutions, development of the continent's nuclear power resources and energy efficiency. The programme also supported the development of power generation from natural gas, coal-bed methane and geothermal power in the Rift Valley.

(e) Climate change and development

- (i) Means of implementation to support developing countries (public sector finance, technology transfer and capacity-building) were important and should be a central outcome of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference, due to be held in Paris in November and December 2015. Owing to its legally distinct nature, climate finance should not be confused with voluntary support for broader sustainable development efforts in developing countries, such as those discussed in the context of the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the establishment of the sustainable development goals. Moreover, the responsibility for providing public sector financing could not be shifted to the private sector, as public finance was the essential vehicle for unlocking potentially much larger sums of investment and financing from the private sector (for instance for adaptation, which seldom attracts spontaneous private funding).
- (ii) Since it had been agreed that any agreement reached in Paris had to be in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, it must be anchored on the Convention's core principles and provisions, including equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, based on science (an increase in global temperatures of 2 degrees Celsius or less), and also address all of the pillars of the Convention in a balanced manner, including adaptation and means of implementation support for developing countries. That was especially important given that the Paris agreement might shape the collective response to climate change for decades to come.
- (iii) The new legal agreement could not be about mitigation action only. It must accord adaptation the same level of priority as mitigation, expressly confirm that adaptation was a global responsibility, and agree on a global goal on adaptation. Parity between mitigation and adaptation needed go

beyond mere normative affirmation (“political parity”) and must include both qualitative and quantitative aspects.

- (iv) The work of subprogramme should include the following priority areas for climate research to serve development needs:
- Co-designed multidisciplinary research for improving climate forecast skills and reliability, across temporal and spatial scales (towards operational, user-relevant, seamless forecast products);
 - Filling the data gap and tailoring for sector decision-making;
 - Capacity-building at all levels;
 - Mainstreaming climate services into decision-making;
 - Linking knowledge with action; and
 - Improved and more effective communication between climate science and policy to identify end user needs.

(f) The Bureau of the Committee.

34. The Bureau should work with the secretariat to ensure that all relevant reports and new biennium programmes are made available to member States well ahead of the session so that they can be properly considered in their capitals before the delegates attend and engage in the next session of the Committee. Moreover, presentations at the session should be limited to summaries of the reports and information circulated to member States before the session.

35. The secretariat thanked the Committee for its extensive and clear interventions. The secretariat also thanked the member States for volunteering to share reports and other knowledge products related to the work of the subprogramme. The subprogramme was focused on African Small Island Developing States, as it was not possible to address all of the issues for all countries. That explained the support for issues surrounding the blue economy, as the benefits of research on the subject could be extended to other States. For example, Guinea-Bissau was being looked at as an African small island developing State and there had been a reconnaissance visit in that regard. On the issue of engagement and partnerships, there was a need to ensure that partnerships focused on core areas of interest and that expertise not otherwise available was brought in, as stressed by the Committee.

F. Theme, dates and venue of the tenth session of the Committee on Sustainable Development

36. The theme and dates of the tenth session of the Committee would be linked to that of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

G. Other matters

37. There were no other matters to be deliberated on by the Committee.

H. Concluding session

38. Ms. Fatima Denton started her concluding remarks by thanking the interpreters and translators for the job very well done, which she said led to high quality and productive deliberations during the Committee meeting. She expressed deep appreciation to the Chair and the entire Bureau, noting the high quality of moderation and leadership displayed by the chair and support provided by the Bureau to the chair to arrive at a common outcome.

39. Ms Fatima also extended a word of thanks to the Chair of CFSSD-8 for setting off the meeting on a right footing and ensuring a smooth transition to the CSD-9 Bureau. She also thanked all the major groups for giving the meeting a good start with a very productive pre-event and active participation in the Committee deliberations. She said that the major groups had demonstrated themselves as strong actors and thanked them for bringing the multi-stakeholder voices.

40. She expressed great appreciation to SID colleagues for all the hard work and high quality reports and presentations that facilitated productive deliberation by the committee.

41. Ms Fatima ended her remarks by pointing out that such a meeting was long overdue, SID being a newly configured division. . She stressed that member states were the main constituency of the Division. She therefore thanked the Committee for the great insights given on the subprogramme, in order to foster structural transformation in the region. She pointed out that the Secretariat's core business was first to listen to the Committee. The Division would explore ways to reflect the various insights and recommendations in the Division's programming. Some of the recommendations would also be taken up during the deliberations of the upcoming Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

42. The Chair of the Bureau thanked the members of the Bureau, member States, major groups and other stakeholders and representatives of regional organizations and United Nations agencies. He recognized and expressed sincere gratitude for the high quality of the presentations given and the contributions made by the participants. He confirmed that the recommendations made would be captured by the secretariat for consideration and adoption on the last day of the meeting. The recommendations agreed upon would be taken forward and implemented taking into consideration resource constraints.

43. The Chair adjourned the session of the Committee at 7.10 p.m.