STATISTICAL NOTE

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This year's Economic Report on Africa is based on the latest updated and harmonized data from various sources, including questionnaires developed by the authors. The main economic and social data variables are obtained from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) database and International Labour Organization (ILO). Data from the statistical databases of the International Monetary (IMF), Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), World Bank, the University of Groningen (Groningen Growth and Development Centre Africa Sector database) and some government departments in African countries are also used in connection with various economic indicators. Data published in the report may differ from those of previous editions due to recent revisions.

The UN-DESA Global Economic Outlook database provides comparable data on GDP growth for all African countries, except Seychelles and Swaziland for which data are obtained from the EIU database. Real GDP growth rates are generated using country data with 2005 as the base year. Sub-regional inflation rates for country groupings are weighted averages, where weights are based on GDP in 2005 prices. Baseline scenario forecasts are based partly on Project LINK and the UN-DESA World Economic Forecasting Model (WEFM). To estimate the impact of the recent oil price shock on Africa's GDP growth, the report uses the quadratic match-sum method to decompose low frequency data (annually) to higher frequency data (monthly). This method fits a local quadratic polynomial for each observation of the original series, using the fitted polynomial to fill in all observations of the higher frequency series associated with the period. The quadratic polynomial is formed by taking sets of three adjacent points from the original series and fitting a quadratic in order to make sure that the sum of the interpolated monthly data points matches the actual annually data points.

Social data is based on the latest available data from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Employment figures are from the ILO-Key Indicators of the Labour Market (KILM) database while data on trade (exports and imports) are from the UNCTAD and World Trade Organization (WTO).

Countries are classified into geographical regions and country groupings. Unless otherwise noted, the data covers 53 African countries (excluding South Sudan due to data unavailability). Geographical regions are: North, Southern, East, West and Central. Parts of the analysis are also based on country groupings of oil importers, oil exporters, mineral rich and mineral poor countries. Oil exporters are those with oil exports at least 20 per cent higher than their oil imports and include: Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Libya, Niger, Nigeria and Sudan. Oil importers include: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, The Gambia The, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Mineral rich countries are those where mineral exports account for more than 20 per cent of total exports and include: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Congo DRC, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Mineral poor countries include: Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Somalia, Swaziland, Tunisia and Uganda. Groupings are based on UNCTAD trade data for 2012 and 2013 (SITC 33 for oil and SITC 27+28+32+34+35+68+667+971 for minerals).

The thematic part of the report employs primary data and information collected, harmonized and analysed by ECA's staff through questionnaires. Several interviews were conducted in 10 countries which included Botswana, Cabo Verde, Chad, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. Additional information was also collected in some Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The interviews were divided into three groupings. The first set of questionnaires were administrated to producers' organizations at the national level such as the local manufacturers associations and the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and relevant organizations for the services subsector, in order to collect information on the structure of industrial sector, operational challenges encountered by African countries in the design, coordination and processes in the development and implementation of their trade and industrial policies. The second set of questionnaires was used for interviews with key officials in industrial and trade policies organizations (ITPOs) involved in the formulation, monitoring and implementation of industrial and trade policies in each country. Finally, a third set of questionnaire was developed to collect the views of RECs aimed at understanding, at the regional and sub-regional levels, measures and policies undertaken in order to foster industrialization through trade, the formation and challenges of industrial and trade policies from an historical perspective.