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**Reports to the Committee on Gender and  
Social Development – reporting and discussion:**  
**(a) Subprogramme 9 – Social development policy**

## **Report on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa relating to subprogramme 9: social development policy**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The Social Development Policy Division aims to promote inclusive and equitable sustainable development, in line with internationally and regionally agreed commitments and frameworks, and to support the priorities of the member States of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The Division is responsible for the implementation of subprogramme 6 (women's empowerment) and subprogramme 9 (social development) of the strategic framework for the biennium 2016-2017.
2. The core mandate of subprogramme 9 is to undertake analytical and empirical research and strengthen the capacities of member States to design and implement appropriate policies that promote inclusive and equitable sustainable development in the areas of employment and social protection, population, young people and urbanization.
3. To implement its mandate, the Division is organized into three sections, namely, the Employment and Social Protection Section, the Population and Youth Section and the Urbanization Section, and is complemented by the African Centre for Gender.
4. The first session of the Committee on Gender and Social Development was held in December 2015. Building on the guidance provided during that session, the Division (for the biennium 2016–2017) played a significant role in mainstreaming social policies into national plans in the areas of employment, social protection, population, young people and urbanization to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In doing so, the Division also supported ECA in responding to Africa's development priorities on social development through its analytical work and policy and advisory support and the development of tools, policy dialogue and capacity strengthening. The Division works in partnership with the African Union Commission, the agencies of the United Nations system, civil society, member States, regional economic communities and other development partners.

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## **II. Progress made in the implementation of the activities under subprogramme 9**

5. The main activities under subprogramme 9 in the biennium 2016–2017 may be grouped into six main clusters, as set out below.

### **A. Analytical work**

#### **1. United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development: Africa regional report**

6. ECA coordinated the regional process for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Africa. It led the preparation of the Habitat III Africa regional report with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Habitat III secretariat. The regional report served as a major substantive contribution to the conference by providing a review of the progress made in Africa since the adoption of the Habitat Agenda in 1996 and identifying priorities for the coming decades.

7. The conclusion given in the report is that Africa's rapid urban growth presents unprecedented opportunities to accelerate transformation and capacity to respond to Africa's development challenges. Harnessing urbanization for Africa's growth and transformation requires the consideration of five broad priority areas: industrialization, productivity and employment; housing and basic services; demographic dynamics; climate change, disasters and the environment; and urban systems, policies and institutions. Given the scale and speed of urban growth and its multifaceted implications, strategic and multisectoral responses are required to mainstream urbanization issues into national development planning.

#### **2. Regional report on integrating urbanization into national development planning for inclusive cities**

8. The Division prepared a regional report on integrating urbanization into national development planning for inclusive cities to support member States in doing the same as a condition necessary for making cities in Africa inclusive and sustainable. On the basis of five country case studies, the evidence base and specific policy recommendations are provided in the report for African countries to promote inclusive cities by mainstreaming urban policies into their national development policies and programmes. This comparative analysis highlights the opportunities, challenges and policy interventions required for African countries to harness the potential of urbanization to achieve national development goals and priorities.

9. In this context, the Division has been implementing a project to strengthen urban policies and strategies in five African countries (Cameroon, Chad, Morocco, Uganda and Zambia), with a focus on integrating urban issues into national development planning through a United Nations Development Account project.

#### **3. Report on the assessment of urban data in Africa**

10. To sustain its work on strengthening urban data and statistics in Africa, ECA published a report on an assessment of urban data in Africa, which contains a review of the state of urban data and statistics and related challenges and opportunities. These insights are critical because Africa intends to monitor and report on the implementation of global and regional urban commitments, including Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda, and those insights will inform the 2020 census programme.

11. The report was presented at the fifth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, in November 2016, in which member States unanimously approved the establishment of an African programme on urbanization data and statistics. The programme is guided by a core working group consisting of the representatives of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Egypt, the Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia, and regional institutions of the United Nations system, with the Division as its secretariat. The Division is following up on this decision to develop the framework for the programme and an implementation road map in consultation with the core working group.

12. In response to the paucity of data and statistics on the economic dimension of urbanization, the Division is developing a harmonized methodology to assess the economic contribution of cities in Africa. This is a core variable in monitoring the role of urbanization in advancing structural transformation and in identifying the drivers of urban economic performance, including productivity and job creation.

#### **4. Third review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Africa for 2012–2017**

13. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in Africa regional review and appraisal is aimed at tracking progress and identifying gaps in the Plan, identifying emerging issues in its national implementation and making specific recommendations for accelerating progress in this implementation. Data collected on 32 countries were analysed and report writing completed. The report will be presented to the Commission for Social Development in January 2018.

#### **5. Ageing and development in small island developing States**

14. The Division undertook research on ageing and development in small island developing States in Africa as part of a field project on the demographic dividend in Africa. ECA recognizes the potential relevance of older persons and their roles in helping to realize a demographic dividend. The research builds on the findings and recommendations of the 2013 Africa regional review of the International Conference on Population and Development and Programme of Action and on the ECA reports on the review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

#### **6. Policy options for young people**

15. The Division prepared a report on policy options for young people in Africa. It presents a holistic and integrated development policy document intended for member States and partners, and is an attempt to enhance synergy in the work of partners and to deepen understanding of strategies aimed at harnessing the dividend represented by young people on the continent.

#### **7. Informality and inequality in Africa**

16. The subprogramme prepared an analytical study (to be published as the *African Social Development Report*) containing an examination of the nature and extent of informal employment and an exploration of its contribution to fostering inequality in African countries. A key question explored is whether and to what extent limited access to quality education and the poor acquisition of skills, especially for young people and women, contribute to informal employment.

17. The report on policy options for young people in Africa contains a conclusion that structural transformation in Africa will occur not only by formalizing the informal sector, but also through an increase in productivity, working conditions and protection for workers in informal employment, especially young people and women. It includes policy suggestions for increasing access to stable and “decent” jobs and towards the implementation of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. More research and reliable and robust national data are required to confirm the contribution of informal employment to inequality in countries.

18. The low rates of numeracy and literacy, poor educational outcomes and lower employable skills are the key determinants of wages in the formal and informal sectors and the drivers of informal employment. The probability of informal employment increases for workers who are men and declines with age and education. Formal employees earn nearly six times more than informal employees do. The report offers policy recommendations for improving education outcomes through training and retooling to raise labour productivity for increased incomes among informal workers.

19. A robust analysis of inequality in its various facets underpins much of the Division's analytical work. In addition to the *African Social Development Report*, which serves as an attempt to analyse and tackle inequality in Africa, the Division is implementing a United Nations Development Account project to strengthen the capacity of countries to conceptualize, design and implement multidisciplinary public policies oriented towards greater socioeconomic equality.

## **8. Cost of Hunger in Africa**

20. The Division finalized and launched two Cost of Hunger in Africa studies (in Chad and Ghana) that helped to raise awareness of the economic costs due to inaction on child undernutrition and to galvanize action to tackle the issue of child undernutrition.

21. The studies, conducted in 11 countries since 2012, by the African Union Commission with the support of ECA, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), provide a basis for developing evidence-based strategies to tackle the problem of child undernutrition and stunting.

22. The studies have been able to raise awareness and create a political mandate for dealing with the problem of child undernutrition. There is increased interest in and awareness of the extent and consequences of child undernutrition for current and future generations and considerable commitment among African member States to end hunger, achieve food security, promote sustainable agriculture and reduce child undernutrition. Numerous challenges remain, however, in making nutrition an integral part of national policies.

23. In this context, the African Union Commission and ECA, in collaboration with WFP and other partners, organized a joint Expert Group Meeting and policy forum on reducing child stunting in Africa, which was held in October 2017. The meeting allowed participants to take stock of the Cost of Hunger in Africa results, help to sustain or increase the commitment of member States and development partners to implementing the African Regional Nutrition Strategy (2016–2025) and achieve the targets set by the global and continent-wide development frameworks to reduce child stunting.

## **9. Economic Report on Africa 2017**

24. The Division prepared the *Economic Report on Africa 2017: Urbanization and Industrialization for Africa's Transformation* jointly with the Macroeconomic Policy Division. Premised on the narrative on urbanization and structural transformation that the Division has been building, it provides an examination of the linkages between Africa's rapid urban transition and its target of accelerating industrialization for inclusive growth. Drawing on 11 country case studies (Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa and the Sudan), the Division shows in the report that urbanization offers considerable opportunities to advance industrial development in Africa. This requires addressing policy disconnects between urban and industrial development in the context of national development planning. In this regard, the report provides specific policy recommendations pertaining to economic and spatial planning to ensure that Africa's urban growth becomes an asset for industrialization.

25. The report was launched at the regional, subregional and national levels and generated considerable interest among African member States and resulted in specific requests for further technical assistance for knowledge generation and policy development. For example, during the 2017 Intergovernmental Committee of Experts meeting for West Africa, member States requested ECA to organize expert group meetings in the subregion, specifically on the interconnection of urbanization, industrialization and structural transformation.

## 10. Social development trends in Africa

26. The Division contributed to the *Economic Report on Africa 2017* by also undertaking an analytical review of the social development trends on the continent. As part of that review, three pertinent social development issues relating to the slow pace of poverty reduction in Africa were examined, as were whether women were benefitting from Africa's growth and whether welfare was higher in urban than rural areas. It was revealed through the analysis that, while poverty had declined since 2002, factors such as a high depth of poverty, high initial inequality, a mismatch between sectors of growth and of employment, and the rapid population growth and delayed demographic transition in many countries had contributed to a slow decline in poverty on the continent.

27. In addition, it was concluded that women had benefited from Africa's growth, albeit slowly. The big push for universal education during the past 20 years had helped to enable nearly all children to attend school and had come close to achieving gender parity at the primary education level. Nevertheless, considerable gaps remain in access to secondary and higher education, health and the labour market throughout subregions.

28. Women in Africa combine high fertility with high labour force participation. This appears to be possible because of their engagement in the informal economy and self-employment, often in the home-based economy, given that it is more compatible with their needs, time-use preferences and capabilities. Low levels of education combine with poor conditions of work and low remuneration to limit women's opportunities for obtaining a fair return on their labour. Progress in fertility, gains in education and the shift by women to productive work are not only connected, but also mutually reinforcing.

29. The analysis also revealed a wide difference in welfare across the rural–urban continuum, with wage rates higher and poverty lower in urban areas than in rural areas. Rural–urban parity is encountered in many social indicators in highly urbanized countries.

30. This analytical work has important policy implications, given that the fast-urbanizing continent aims to reduce poverty and inequality and achieve structural transformation through enhanced labour force participation, gender empowerment and universal access to basic services so that no one is left behind.

## B. Policy and advisory support

31. The Division facilitated a national dialogue on the importance of urbanization for the achievement of national growth and transformation priorities in the five countries in which the United Nations Development Account project is being implemented. In doing so, the Division has been working with multisectoral national implementation teams in the countries to ensure national ownership and enhance capacities for urban policy formulation and implementation. In addition, the Division undertook national case studies in all five countries on the status of urbanization in national development planning, the results of which validated national counterparts to inform policy narratives and processes.

32. Migration is a crucial component of the global development discourse and has been enshrined in the 2030 Agenda in three of the Sustainable Development Goals. ECA recognizes the urgent need to support African member States in achieving the Goal on migration. In Africa in particular, there is a need for its own narrative on migration to emerge, informed by both its population dynamics and the dominance of population flows on the continent.

33. With regard to this objective, a high-level panel on migration was constituted in response to a resolution adopted at the Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development held in Addis Ababa in March and April 2016.

In the resolution, ECA and the African Union Commission are mandated to provide the technical backstopping necessary to the panel.

34. On 19 September 2017, the General Assembly adopted by consensus the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1). In the Declaration, member States committed themselves to developing a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, to be adopted at an intergovernmental conference on international migration to be held in 2018. The Division is leading the consultations with the International Organization for Migration to prepare Africa's contribution to the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

35. The Division also deepened its analytical work on inequality in relation to its importance in the policy debate and its specific reference to the Sustainable Development Goals. The Division, in collaboration with the other regional commissions,<sup>1</sup> will support the key role of equality in development. Its goal is to strengthen countries' capacities to conceptualize, design and implement multidisciplinary public policies that are oriented towards greater socioeconomic equality. It conducted two studies in Côte d'Ivoire and the United Republic of Tanzania on both monetary and non-monetary aspects of inequality. The studies led to the production of a toolkit to analyse the drivers of inequality and propose improved pro-equity public policies.

### **C. Development of capacity-building tools**

36. The Division developed a guidebook on how to integrate urbanization into national development planning in Africa. It will be used to build capacities through national training workshops and technical advisory services in five countries where the Division is implementing a project on urban policies and strategies: Cameroon, Chad, Morocco, Uganda and Zambia. The training will focus on how member States can tackle urbanization from a multisectoral perspective in the context of national development planning.

37. The African Social Development Index, an ECA-led product, supported in part by the Rockefeller Foundation, has been introduced in more than 25 African countries. The Index measures the depth of human exclusion in a life cycle in a member State through six impact indicators and throughout time. Gender, location (rural-urban) and lower administrative areas using nationally generated data can disaggregate the Index scores.

38. The Index, recognized as a useful policy instrument towards inclusive development and improved targeting of social policies by member States, has generated demands from a number of member States for capacity-building and technical assistance in its use for policy support.

39. The mapping of social policies against expected impact, as measured by the African Social Development Index in specific countries, improves the monitoring and design of more inclusive social policies. Policy mapping on unemployment among young people and nutrition are being undertaken, and preliminary results will be presented at an international conference and peer reviewed by African experts.

40. The Division has been working to generate evidence on what works to promote employment among young people in order to guide policy and investment decisions of Governments and development partners. It documented good practices in employment initiatives and smoothing the school-to-work transition throughout Africa that are deemed to engage and provide positive outcomes for young people. An online policy toolbox for young people will highlight these initiatives. The toolbox will also act as a repository of knowledge, experience and good practices and contains

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<sup>1</sup> The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Western Asia.

learning modules that will provide policymakers with a comprehensive resource for developing inclusive and responsive policies on young people.

41. The Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development represents the most significant intergovernmental agreement signed in the area of population and development and is key for reviewing the Programme of Action from the International Conference on Population and Development and its follow-up since 2014. The Division developed an operational guide on the Declaration to provide countries with clear and specific guidance for implementing the Declaration and serves as the means for monitoring its implementation.

#### **D. Policy dialogues and knowledge-sharing**

42. The Division was instrumental in advancing dialogue among African member States, actors and stakeholders on the region's housing and sustainable urbanization priorities. It organized several Africa-focused events on the continent's urban priorities in relation to its structural transformation agenda in the context of Habitat III. The Division also technically backstopped the development of a common African position on Habitat III by the African Union, which served as a central instrument for Africa's engagement in the Habitat III process. The common African position was endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-seventh ordinary session, held in Kigali in July 2016, representing a critical milestone in shaping Africa's policies on sustainable urban development.

43. In line with the urbanization and structural transformation narrative, the Division worked with the Capacity Development Division to organize a high-level policy dialogue on national development planning in June 2016, which focused on integrating urbanization into national development planning in Africa with 40 senior development planning officials from throughout Africa. The officials who attended the policy dialogue concluded that urbanization needed to be harnessed for its potential to deliver growth and job opportunities and accelerate structural transformation. They also agreed that not dealing with urbanization today would impede development prospects and prove costly. They underscored the need for African member States to consider urbanization as a key development agenda for the continent and link it to national development visions and goals. In addition, they requested the Division to undertake further analysis on the nexus between urban and national development planning and develop a toolkit on how to better integrate urban issues into national development plans.

#### **E. Trainings and capacity-strengthening**

44. Together with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the Division has been preparing an e-learning course on the *Economic Report on Africa 2017*, targeting policymakers, practitioners and other actors (to be released October 2017). This will advance the policy uptake and impact of the report's study findings and recommendations on how African countries can connect national, urban and industrial development policies for inclusive and sustainable growth.

45. ECA has been working closely with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning to develop and deliver relevant modules of the annual training course on social policy for development planners to equip a critical mass of middle and senior development officials and decision makers with the knowledge, skills and expertise necessary to design and manage development plans and achieve the desired transformative outcomes.

46. In line with the 2030 Agenda and working together with ECLAC, the International Labour Organization, WFP and the United Nations Development Programme–Regional Bureau for Africa, the Division aims to increase the capacity of African countries to formulate suitable policies to reduce poverty and inequality and

monitor investment in social protection policies and programmes. The project extends the concept of social protection to more than social assistance, safety nets or food aid to include the provision of basic social security guarantees such as universal access to health care, nutrition, education, income security for those unable to earn sufficient income and basic income security for older persons. The initial phases of the project have been the implementation of two country studies (Kenya and Nigeria) of the five countries selected (Chad, Mauritania and Mozambique are the remaining three). Preliminary results will be reviewed and assessed at an Expert Group Meeting of African policymakers.

## **F. Partnerships**

47. The Division continued its partnerships with the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, regional economic communities, member States, agencies of the United Nations system<sup>2</sup> and research institutes. Together, the partners facilitated policy dialogues and advocacy on inclusive and sustainable development in the context of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

48. Working in collaboration with other agencies of the United Nations system, the subprogramme contributed to two thematic papers on eradicating all forms of poverty in Africa and ensuring health lives and promoting well-being for all. The papers were presented at the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development and their key recommendations contributed to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, in July 2017.

49. These strategic partnerships contributed significantly to strengthening policy support underpinned by evidence-based analysis to guide member States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

50. The partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation Africa Office for Eastern Africa supported both the training of member States in the process and application of the African Social Development Index and in the production of various subregional reports covering Central, East, North, Southern and West Africa. A partners meeting on the Index, held in Nairobi in January 2017 to generate technical and financial support for the extension of the policy work of the Index in member States, helped to endorse the work of the Index in Africa, and many partners expressed their willingness to support the work.

51. The common African position on Habitat III was critical in ensuring that Africa's priorities were reflected in the New Urban Agenda that emerged from Habitat III, held in Quito, including the role of urbanization in structural transformation. Since Habitat III, the Division has been working with the African Union and UN-Habitat to develop a harmonized regional framework for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Africa. The framework will be anchored to Africa's housing and urban development priorities guided by Sustainable Development Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda, the common African position on Habitat III and national development plans and visions. It will inform the regional and national processes for implementation, provide follow-up and a review of both global and regional urban commitments in Africa and enable a harmonized approach focused on leveraging urbanization for structural transformation.

52. ECA, together with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the African Union Commission, has been instrumental in the formation of the African

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<sup>2</sup> The World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Western Asia.



Population Experts Committee, a subcommittee of the Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control. The three organizations support the mandate and work of the subcommittee as defined in the terms of reference.

53. The Division held two independent side events with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in Dakar in March 2017 at the margins of the Conference of African Ministers of Economy and Finance. The ECA and WHO high-level advocacy forum on financing health in Africa for resilient systems brought together policymakers, development partners and civil society working on health to debate and synthesize issues on financing health in Africa. The meeting generated key recommendations on how to finance health on a sustainable basis. It also helped to increase the visibility and profile of ECA working in partnership with WHO and UNAIDS.

54. The ECA and UNAIDS high-level panel on the theme of “Ending AIDS as an economic investment: creating human resources in cities and regions left behind” was attended by African ministers of health and finance from several member States, officials from the African Union, representatives of agencies of the United Nations system, academics, researchers and civil society. The meeting highlighted the case for immediate, front-loaded investment in the HIV response and increasing the uptake of HIV testing and treatment towards the 90-90-90 target. The meeting provided a useful opportunity for interaction with policymakers from member States to influence policies on ending HIV/AIDS in Africa.

55. Other notable partnerships were with the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the Society for International Development, research institutes, think tanks, academia and civil society in order to support the social and human development agenda in Africa.

### **III. Planned activities under the subprogramme on social development for the biennium 2018–2019**

56. In the coming biennium, the Division will continue to advance urbanization policies by generating policy knowledge, strengthening urban data and statistics, building capacity and delivering technical assistance in policy formulation and implementation. Accordingly, the Division will prepare a report on the state of urbanization in Africa, the focus of which will be on a priority theme for the region aligned with the narrative of ECA to advance structural transformation.

57. The Division will continue to focus on enhancing the integration of urbanization into national development planning as a strategic driver of inclusive growth and transformation. In this respect, the 2017 guidebook on integrating urbanization into national development planning in Africa will be used to build capacities for formulating urban policies and strategies in Africa through national training workshops in five countries: Cameroon, Chad, Morocco, Uganda and Zambia. Similarly, the Division will support those countries in developing an action plan for short-term, medium-term and long-term targets to better integrate urbanization into national development planning. The Division will also seek to advance policy dialogue at the highest levels on the role of urbanization in national development.

58. The Division will prepare a report on urban data and statistics drawing on the work of the African programme on urbanization data and statistics. As part of the programme, a quick guide will be developed to assist African member States in generating harmonized, timely and quality urban data and statistics. The guide will inform capacity-building efforts organized at the subregional level targeting national statistical offices. The Division will also finalize the framework for the programme guided by the core working group of the programme.

59. The Division will continue to support a harmonized regional approach to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the implementation of the New

Urban Agenda in Africa by working with the African Union and UN-Habitat. In this regard, it will produce a report on these efforts, highlighting the key issues, priorities, challenges and opportunities in the region. The focus of the 2018 high-level forum on sustainable development on Goal 11 and the World Urban Forum offers an opportunity for the region to assess progress in effectively responding to urbanization.

60. The Division has been working to ensure that the demographic dividend aligns with the ongoing and future work of ECA. Specifically, it has been assessing the demographic dividend and inequality to tackle the following two aspects:

- (a) The interrelationship between the demographic dividend and socioeconomic inequalities. The interrelationship has been noted as bidirectional, which the study will take into consideration;
- (b) The effect of gender inequality in aspects such as education, employment, health, social services and civil and political participation with regard to the attainment of the demographic dividend.

61. In recognition of the current and future population structure of Africa for the coming 50 years, ECA is working with member States on how to harness the demographic dividend, which is linked to the African Union theme of harnessing it through an investment in young people.

62. The African Centre for Gender and the Population and Youth Section, in partnership with the Social Development Division, Social Policy and Population Section and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Section of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, recently submitted a United Nations Development Account project on assisting member States in capitalizing on the demographic dividend, with a gender dimension, and creating entry points for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa and Asia and the Pacific.

63. Two research projects are aimed at analysing evidence of the interrelationships between the demographic dividend and socioeconomic inequalities. The research will centre on two questions: how inequalities can be a potential barrier to realizing the demographic dividend by some countries in Africa and how the demographic dividend may reduce or enhance socioeconomic inequalities and poverty throughout social strata.

64. A six-country study on the demographic dividend will focus on the question of how Africa can harness the benefits of the demographic dividend. It will also focus on exploring the steps and policy actions necessary to guarantee that the continent does not pass this opportunity by. Special attention will be given to investment in the health of young people, including reproductive health, in human capital for young people, in jobs and industrialization and in social protection to sustain the demographic dividend. The findings of the study will be discussed at a meeting of experts.

65. The Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control endorsed the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development operational guide adopted by the African Population Experts Committee. As mandated by member States, the guide is now an instrument to be used to promote the practical implementation of the Declaration, which, in turn, constitutes regional follow-up to the Cairo Programme of Action. In this respect, the workplan for the 25-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 5-year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development will be developed, and ECA and UNFPA will undertake the review process.

66. The age-structural transitions presently under way determine the emerging demographic issues in Africa. This calls for a shift in the way in which the population and development relationships are examined. A focus on age-structural transition will therefore be on new policies that take into account the changing proportions of the various age groups in the population.

67. ECA responded to the current global focus on human mobility by working to develop an African perspective on migration, with an emphasis on intra-African migration. The high-level panel on migration will be engaged in advocacy work, mainly on the development and adoption of policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

68. ECA will support the process of intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption, at an intergovernmental conference in 2018, of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The work on the global compact and the high-level panel on migration will continue into the next biennium.

69. The high-level panel on migration will be engaged in advocacy work. The ECA-wide comprehensive programme on migration will be developed. It will be aimed at deepening and building on areas in which ECA has already developed a specialized expertise by expanding its current work as it relates to migration, while also tackling some of the pertinent gaps and trends with regard to migration in Africa, which, if harnessed effectively, can contribute to development.

70. In the coming biennium, the Division will strengthen its work on employment and social protection through two interrelated knowledge-generated outputs: policy mapping and the better monitoring of social investment. Policy mapping is the analysis of the inclusivity of social policies at the national and subnational levels. National-level data, analysis of the drivers of unintended results and the monitoring and evaluation of policies will constitute the core of a comprehensive report on policy mapping. This report will contribute to ECA support to African member States in achieving a more inclusive and sustainable 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

71. The Division acknowledges the critical importance of monitoring social investment in improving welfare outcomes and ensuring progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. To enhance effectiveness and cost-efficiency, social investment trends will be analysed in Chad, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique and Nigeria. The analytical results will be used to prepare a comprehensive report on improving the monitoring of social investment in Africa that will also include good practices on affordability, resource mobilization and cost-effectiveness. The preparation and subsequent wide dissemination of the report will help to create informed awareness of enhancing social investment for sustainable and equitable growth. In addition, a toolkit will be developed to enhance national capacities for designing and implementing suitable policies for the monitoring of social investment.

## IV. Conclusion

72. The Division has played a leading role in advancing policies and strategies for inclusive and sustainable development in Africa through the preparation of knowledge products and the provision of policy advice, policy dialogues and knowledge-sharing to support member States in their efforts to accelerate structural transformation.

73. The Division will continue to build on the knowledge generated during the biennium 2016–2017 in the 2017–2018 budget cycle. This allows for continuity and sustainability of the knowledge generated during a longer period, bringing it more in line with possible policy impact.

74. In line with the policy on knowledge generation, the staff in the Division continued to produce research papers for journal publications and policy briefs for a wider audience as part of influencing development thinking and the policy landscape in Africa. The research and analytical work was underpinned by the use of credible data and statistics from member States, which has helped to increase acceptability of research outputs and the buy-in from policymakers and led to increased demand from member States for advisory services and technical assistance.

75. The Division's knowledge products are a response to emerging issues on the continent through empirically grounded work. These knowledge products have helped to influence policies in member States and other stakeholders. Knowledge products such as policy briefs will be produced as part of efforts to train member States and other stakeholders on the issues at hand.

76. The Division, while ensuring the sustainability of its work, will continue to generate knowledge in the areas pertaining to young people, population, urbanization, employment and social protection, in line with the emerging issues on the continent and the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

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