



# **Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General  
2 December 2015

Original: English

---

**Economic Commission for Africa  
Committee on Gender and Social Development**

First session

Addis Ababa, 17 and 18 December 2015

Item 5 of the provisional agenda\*

## **Subprogramme 9 of the Economic Commission for Africa: social development policy**

### **Report of the Social Development Policy Division**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. African member States are increasingly calling for people-centred development programmes to ensure inclusive sustainable development. This has lifted social development from the margins of policy debates to a key objective of development.
2. 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. To implement its mandate, the Division has been organized into three sections: the Employment and Social Protection Section, the Population and Youth Section, and the Urbanization Section, and is complemented by the African Centre for Gender.
3. 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 2014–2015. The core mandate of subprogramme 9 is to undertake analytical and empirical research, and to strengthen the capacities of member States to design and implement appropriate policies that promote inclusive and equitable sustainable development, in particular in the areas of employment and social protection, population and youth, and urbanization.
4. Over the period 2014–2015, the Division has focused on the transformational role that social development can play in an inclusive sustainable development agenda. In addition, the strategic repositioning of the

\*E/ECA/CGSD/1/1.

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to enhance its response to Africa's development priorities has strengthened the Division's ability to deliver on both its policy research and knowledge product mandates under the social development subprogramme.

## **II. Progress in the implementation of the activities under the subprogramme on social development over the biennium 2014–2015**

5. During the biennium 2014–2015, the Social Development Policy Division has undertaken studies and policy work on health, education, youth, employment, social protection, population issues (including the demographic dividend), ageing, migration, and urbanization, in collaboration with the African Union, United Nations agencies, civil society, member States and regional economic communities.

6. The main activities under subprogramme 9 may be grouped into four main clusters, as set out below.

### **A. Analytical work**

#### **1. Cost of Hunger in Africa study**

7. The Division has been working with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the African Union Commission to raise awareness, build consensus and catalyse action to reduce child undernutrition in Africa, by conducting studies on the cost of hunger in Africa (COHA) in different countries.

8. These studies estimate the cost of inaction in dealing with the scourge of malnutrition in the continent. They demonstrate that child malnutrition is not only a social issue but a quantifiable economic challenge that results in significant loss of resources, due to child undernutrition both in the present and in the past. Close cooperation with national implementation teams and the use of national data to ensure accountability and ownership have been the hallmarks of the Division's interaction with member States. To date, the COHA studies have been undertaken in two phases in nine countries.<sup>1</sup>

9. The studies have been able to generate a platform at the country level for building awareness and political and technical discussions on the urgent need to set more aggressive goals for the reduction of hunger, child malnutrition and stunting. They have helped create a political mandate for addressing the problem of child undernutrition and, to that end, two separate declarations were adopted by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its twenty-third ordinary session, held in Malabo in July 2014: the Declaration on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa, and the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods.

10. There is also widespread recognition among countries which were not part of the original set of selected countries of the importance of the Cost of Hunger in Africa studies for building consensus and securing political buy-in for increased national efforts to reduce child undernutrition and stunting. At the same time, member States need policy support in their endeavour to attain the goal of eliminating stunting in the continent.

---

<sup>1</sup> Chad, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland and Uganda.

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

11. The subprogramme is currently undertaking an analytical study that examines the linkage between informal employment and inequality. The study, which is to be published as the African Social Development Report, is predicated on two key development challenges facing Africa today: first, the lack of sufficient and decent jobs, in particular for women and young people; and, second, high levels of social and economic inequality within countries and population groups.

12. Country case studies are being undertaken in Benin, the Congo, Namibia and the United Republic of Tanzania that will analyse the issues in depth for each of the four selected countries. An early draft is to be circulated at the expert group meeting on 15 and 16 December 2015, for the purpose of gathering comments and suggestions. The final report is likely to be ready in early 2016 and a series of dissemination workshops are planned in those countries.

13. The endeavour to understand and address inequality in Africa forms the very core of the Division's analytical work, as tackling inequality in all its forms is a social imperative and essential for sustainable and equitable growth in Africa. In this context, background analytical research and the preparation of the African Social Development Report are being undertaken jointly with the United Nations Development Account project on promoting equality, which aims to strengthen the capacities of selected countries to design and implement equality-oriented public policies and programmes.

## **3. Population dynamics and development**

14. Building on the findings and recommendations of the 2013 Africa regional review of progress in the implementation beyond 2014 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and following up on the implementation of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014, the Division has focused on a number of critical issues relating to population and youth. Harnessing the demographic dividend has been a vital thematic focus of the Division's work. In this context, the Division produced a policy paper on population dynamics and development transformation which analysed the nexus between population dynamics and Africa's structural transformation, with a view to informing development policies and strategies for social and economic transformation in the continent.

15. Based on that paper, the subprogramme convened a meeting in December 2014 to marshal external expertise to review and validate the analysis and policy recommendations set out therein. The expert group meeting analysed the critical link between population dynamics and socioeconomic development. It put forward specific proposals on how population dynamics could be best addressed in Africa's structural transformation agenda – namely, in the context of the review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014 and the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda. The meeting brought together a diverse group of experts drawn from governments, civil society, the academic sector and agencies active in the area of population and development.

16. In a similar vein, ECA recognizes the potential value of Africa's older persons and their role in harnessing the continent's demographic dividend. In this regard, ECA is carrying out research activities on ageing and development in the small island developing States of Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius and Sao Tome and Principe, to promote the knowledge and information of

ECA member States on the ageing process and on the policies, interventions and strategies needed to integrate ageing issues into the development agenda.

17. In partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), ECA has produced a synthesis report on the demographic dividend in Africa. The report analyses and discusses the concept of the demographic dividend and its linkages to African development. It also highlights various initiatives around the continent on the demographic dividend and critical policy recommendations arising from the country and regional studies supported by those initiatives. The report is part of continuing efforts to keep policymakers informed and to advocate the integration of the demographic dividend in development planning and policy. These efforts are aimed at helping African countries to make adequate plans for, and to maximize the potential benefit of, the youth bulge and in that way to enhance the well-being of Africa and its people. In this respect, the report has helped in formulating strategies that are essential to taking full advantage of the demographic dividend in African States.

#### **4. Responding to the needs of youth**

18. As part of the joint programme by ECA, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to strengthen the capacity of governments to respond to the needs of young people in formulating inclusive and sustainable development policies, the ECA youth programme is working to generate authoritative evidence on the situation of young people on the continent and to propose alternative and impact-based solutions to deal with the issues that they face. A regional analysis is being undertaken to this end, assessing the participation of young people in social, economic and political spheres in Africa. This involves investigating the degree to which young people are included in or excluded from the various dimensions of development, bearing in mind that the primary aim of the regional analysis is to demonstrate to policymakers in the region the benefits of investing in youth by promoting youth inclusion.

19. The analysis focuses on the priority areas in the Five-Year Action Agenda of the Secretary-General, namely, employment and entrepreneurship; protection of rights and civic engagement; political inclusion; education including comprehensive sexuality education; and health. The associated research is being conducted through an analysis of secondary data on youth available in member States, while primary data are also being collected through a process of interviews and discussions, to ensure that the voices of young people are heard. The project will be implemented in Kenya, Mozambique and Sierra Leone. In addition, the Division is developing alternative policy options for young people, based on public interventions that encompass participation, employment and skills development.

#### **5. Urbanization**

20. The division's programme on urbanization is leading the process of the African regional review of the implementation of commitments in the Habitat Agenda, which emerged from the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1996. These commitments focused on: urban planning and design; urban governance; urban economy; housing and basic services; social development; environmental management and urbanization; transport and mobility; and research and capacity development. The regional review process for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) has provided an opportunity for the programme to identify the implementation gaps and emerging issues that will inform Africa's future urbanization priorities.

21. In 1996, during Habitat II, Africa's input into the formulation of the global urban agenda at that time was minimum and, as a result, the ECA urbanization programme, carried out in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization, has undertaken to provide technical backstopping for the development of Africa's policy framework on urban development, also known as Africa's urban agenda, which will inform the new global urban agenda to be adopted by Habitat III in 2016. Specifically, ECA has assembled the underlying evidence for the formulation of an African common position for Habitat III and is also coordinating preparation of the Africa regional report for the conference. Ghana and Nigeria have led the process of driving adoption of the African urban agenda, based on the realities of the urbanization processes in Africa and the importance of an African-owned urban agenda.

22. Policymakers from such member States as Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, the Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia have responded positively to the call for the adoption of policies and strategies based on the African urban agenda framework, which is also in line with the urbanization and structural transformation agenda, thereby meaningfully harnessing the opportunities presented by urbanization for development in their countries.

23. The African urban agenda was developed taking into consideration work by ECA on the transformation agenda, and was also based on research that demonstrated the benefits of a holistic approach to urbanization for structural transformation. In addition, future work by ECA on urbanization will also involve the mainstreaming of urban development issues in national planning processes and plans, in line with the aspirations articulated in Agenda 2063, adopted by the African Union, for inclusive growth and sustainable development and with the Agenda's first ten-year implementation plan.

24. In addition, in response to the recommendation emanating from the review of progress in the implementation beyond 2014 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, with a view to redoubling efforts and strengthening national statistical capacity to undertake evidence-based analysis, and to speed up the work on urbanization, and working in collaboration with the ECA Africa Centre for Statistics, the urbanization programme has embarked on the strengthening of urban statistics in Africa by conducting an assessment of existing urban data and capacity gaps in countries. The assessment will serve as the background for the revision of the principles and recommendations of the population and housing census guidelines used in defining urban areas in Africa. The programme has also seized the opportunity presented by the current 2020 census round of data collection to advocate comparable urban concepts and indicators that can be used for appropriate evidence-based policymaking.

25. The urbanization programme is also contributing to Africa's inputs into the development of indicators for the monitoring of goal 11 of Agenda 2030, which aims to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", in the context of processes related to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, coordinated by the United Nations Statistics Division.

26. During the third session of the Committee on Human and Social Development, member States requested ECA to facilitate the sharing of good social and urban development practices identified in selected studies for possible replication across the continent. To this end, the urbanization

programme will be conducting e-dialogues with African development planners through the ECA community of practice for African development planners, with a view to promoting principles for inclusive and sustainable cities, based on five country experiences, namely, those of Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Morocco, Uganda and Zambia. The outcome of the dialogues will enhance peer learning, information-sharing, which will be used in policy formulation, and implementation at the national level. The current knowledge-sharing architecture at ECA, however, has yet to facilitate the sharing of best practices across the continent beyond communities of practice established at the national level.

## **B. Policy and advisory support**

27. Among activities carried out under the subprogramme relating to policy and advisory support, attention is drawn to the following:

(a) *Joint Labour Migration Programme initiative*: During the period under review, the Joint Labour Migration Programme initiative was endorsed by the Labour and Social Affairs Commission of the African Union at its special session, held in Windhoek in April 2014, and also by the Assembly of the African Union, at its twenty-third ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa in January 2015. ECA has been involved in the design and development of the programme document for this joint initiative. As a next step, the partners will focus on mobilizing resources for implementing the programme;

(b) *Technical support for Guinea-Bissau*: The Division's credibility was substantially augmented through the demand-driven request by Guinea-Bissau for technical support for its development plans;

(c) *Design of EAC Vision 2050*: At the subregional level, the East African Community (EAC) requested ECA and the Division to assist it with the design of its EAC Vision 2050;

(d) *Response to the Ebola crisis*: The Division formed an integral part of the corporate response to the outbreak of Ebola in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. This demand-driven request resulted in the conduct of a comprehensive study on the social and economic impacts of Ebola, which has provided a more realistic assessment of the effects of the disease on West African and continental economic growth.

## **C. Development of tools**

28. In response to a request from the Committee on Human and Social Development in December 2013, the Division developed the African Social Development Index to help member States to assess and monitor the extent of exclusion within their countries and to devise more inclusive and equitable policies.

29. The index follows a life-cycle approach, which recognizes that people can face different forms of exclusion at different stages of their lives. The index estimates the depth of human exclusion in six key dimensions over time: survival, nutrition, education, employment, means of subsistence, and decent life for the elderly. Depending upon the availability of data, the index can be estimated across time and disaggregated by gender and geographical location to assess inequalities between and within countries and population groups. The value of each indicator ranges between 0 and 1 and the overall

level of exclusion in African countries – in other words, the total score – lies between 0 and 6.

30. A key feature of the African Social Development Index is that it moves forward to identify, assess and monitor the effectiveness of policies to promote inclusive development, both at national and subnational levels. In particular, the index will assist member States in devising and implementing more inclusive and equitable social policies, at national and subnational levels, and support the implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063, where issues of equality and inclusion have considerable prominence.

31. The index has undergone a number of internal and external validation processes. It was launched at the regional level at the Ninth African Development Forum in Marrakech, Morocco, in October 2014, and endorsed by the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment, the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at their respective meetings in March 2015. A round-table discussion on the index and the use of other policy tools for development planning was organized as a side event during the 2015 meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers and was well attended by development experts from across the region.

## **D. Knowledge-sharing**

32. In pursuit of its mandated goal of knowledge-sharing, the Division's activities have focused on the areas outlined below.

### **1. Conference on Migration**

33. The Division, in partnership with the African Diaspora Policy Centre, based at The Hague, and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), organized a conference on the topic "Migration dynamics in Africa: understanding the narrative", on 23 and 24 November 2015. The objective of the conference was to facilitate the exchange of South-South experience by providing a platform where key policymakers from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco and Tunisia could reflect on how migration realities are considered in their policies. The expert meeting provided an arena for developing an agenda on migration to help the continent come to grips better with the multifaceted dynamics of migration.

### **2. High-level ministerial dialogue on harnessing the demographic dividend for Agenda 2063**

34. Together with UNFPA, the Division co-organized a high-level ministerial dialogue on harnessing the demographic dividend for Agenda 2063, as a side event during the March 2015 meeting of the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. The dialogue, adjudged to have been a great success, provided a strategic opportunity to discuss practical ways and specific investment policy choices to support countries in their efforts to promote and harness the demographic dividend and to contribute to achieving the aspirations of Agenda 2063.

### **3. Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control**

35. The first session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Health, Population and Drug Control was held in Addis Ababa in April 2015 with support from the Division. The session was attended by ministers, government experts and other key individuals, who deliberated on health,

population and drug control issues with a view to ensuring that they were duly reflected in the implementation of the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda. Building on the outcomes of the review of progress in the implementation beyond 2014 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, ECA, in collaboration with UNFPA and the African Union Commission, organized a parallel session for population experts, at which the experts developed terms of reference for the African Population Experts Committee and an accountability mechanism for the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014.

## **E. Partnerships**

36. The work undertaken by the Division under subprogramme 9 has been marked by partnership with pan-African institutions, including the African Union, and other United Nations entities through the revamping of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the subclusters of labour, environment, population, and urbanization and migration.

37. The Division has collaborated with such United Nations entities as UN-Habitat, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNFPA, among others, to deliver its knowledge products in line with the “Delivering as one” initiative, and with a view to enhancing the expected accomplishment. This has led to the development of continental policy frameworks and initiatives, such as the African urban agenda. The Joint Youth Employment Initiative for Africa – mounted together with the African Union, ILO and the African Development Bank – is a salient example of such undertakings, while the Division’s collaboration with UNFPA on activities relating to the demographic dividend has made possible greater leverage, visibility and outreach and is significantly contributing to the expected accomplishment.

38. Dynamic collaboration with prominent research institutes, think tanks and foundations have considerably assisted the peer review of the Division’s products and facilitated outreach. This included collaboration with the national institutes of statistics of Cameroon, Morocco and Sao Tome and Principe, the Ethiopian Economic Association, the Society for International Development in Nairobi, the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa in Dakar, the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research and the University of Nairobi, both in Nairobi, the University of Mauritius, the West Africa Network for Peace-building in Cabo Verde, and the National Institute of Studies and Research in Guinea-Bissau, among others. Civil society organizations, including the African Child Policy Forum and the Pan-African Parliament, are also important partners.

39. To enhance the policy outreach of its work, the Division collaborated with civil society organizations and initiatives such as the Disability Forum, GIZ, the Union for African Population Studies, the African Diaspora Policy Centre, INDEPTH – an international network currently comprising 31 demographic surveillance system field sites in 17 countries – and the Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020 project (PMA2020). In addition, the Africa regional office of the Rockefeller Foundation, based in Nairobi, is emerging as a valued partner and is supporting the dissemination and development of the African Social Development Index.

40. Partnerships at the regional level with regional economic communities such as the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), along with the other United Nations regional economic commissions, namely, ESCAP,



ECLAC and ESCWA, further underpin the credibility of the Division's work and attest to the policy influence of its products.

41. The credibility and trust of member States and other stakeholders in the Division are manifested in the growing demand for its knowledge products. The technical tools developed by the Division and its advisory services were acknowledged with gratitude by all stakeholders. A feedback system on the relevance of the knowledge products presented at experts' meetings ensured effectiveness in delivery and a positive learning process, by aligning knowledge products to the responses received.

42. By strengthening its operational effectiveness, the Division has endeavoured to build on the Commission's new integrated and coherent approach. Through this approach, it has been possible to achieve inter-divisional synergy with work under other subprogrammes, such as those on macroeconomic policy, statistics and capacity development, and with the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), among others, which is further complemented by the direct involvement of the ECA subregional offices.

### **III. ECA strategic managerial, monitoring and communication tools**

43. In response to the aspiration by ECA to serve as Africa's think tank of reference on African development policy issues, internal and external business processes are increasingly aligning themselves with Africa's social development priorities. Thus it is now possible, through these innovative business processes, to gauge the performance by the Division in pursuit of its mandate to undertake analytical and empirical research, and to strengthen the capacities of member States to design and implement appropriate policies.

44. In the period under review, the Division's knowledge products sought to respond to emerging issues on the continent through empirically grounded work. The Division's knowledge products have influenced policies in member States and other stakeholders. For example, the Division's significant role in the formulation of the African urban agenda was based on research that supports a holistic approach to urbanization for structural transformation. In all, 21 member States<sup>2</sup> have responded positively to the call for the adoption of policies and strategies based on the framework of the African urban agenda.

45. Another clear example of the Division's performance in this area is provided by the Cost of Hunger in Africa process, in which the Division, working with WFP and the African Union Commission, conducted nine country studies<sup>3</sup> estimating the cost of inaction in dealing with the scourge of malnutrition in Africa. The policy influence of this work resulted in the two high-level declarations adopted by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government at its twenty-third ordinary session, in Malabo in July 2014, as mentioned in section A.1 above.

46. The credibility generated by the Division and the trust placed in its knowledge products have led to increased demand from member States for advisory services and technical assistance, including the development of the African Social Development Index and, in particular, its policy-mapping framework. This framework identifies and assesses the effectiveness of social

<sup>2</sup> Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

<sup>3</sup> Chad, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Rwanda, Swaziland and Uganda.

policies in reducing human exclusion over time and will be applied over the next biennium.

47. To verify the relevance of its knowledge products, ECA recently conducted a partnership survey of key stakeholders, including the African Union, member States and research institutes. The Division's work was rated positively by respondents, who reported that it was instrumental in "tackling African inequalities in the context of African transformation. The emerging work on an African Social Development Index is also extremely encouraging". In addition, the Division's analytical research was deemed responsive to African development issues.

48. Survey respondents recommended that the Division should concentrate on a number of issues to ensure that the needs of member States and other stakeholders were better met. Capacity-building was considered essential for improved outreach, and should be scaled up. In addition, it was recommended that ECA should form more effective partnerships with national institutions, including non-State actors, to build their sense of ownership and their accountability to member States. These recommendations will be reflected in the formulation of the planned outputs and activities for the next biennium.

#### **IV. Planned activities under the subprogramme on social development for the biennium 2016–2017**

49. In the 2016–2017 biennium, the Division will deliver on the substantive knowledge products and activities outlined in the following sections.

##### **A. Policy mapping**

50. Policy mapping forms part of the effort to capture social policies that have contributed to notable changes in member States, as measured by the African Social Development Index. The index offers a means of tracking determinable outcomes and, in this context, it will be used as a compass to identify policies and their impact on human exclusion and to highlight success stories and lessons learned. Thus, policy mapping will build on the initial work of the African Social Development Index in order to identify outstanding country experiences, focusing on development goals, programmes, inputs, outputs and effects of the interventions. In the context of its policy mapping work, the Division will also focus on an analysis of the outcome of the Cost of Hunger in Africa study process.

##### **B. Policy briefs**

51. Policy briefs will be produced and a database developed on the monitoring of social investments, as part of the effort to enhance knowledge products in social and human development.

52. In its activities under this subprogramme, the Division will continue to build on the findings and recommendations of the 2013 Africa regional review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014.

53. In that connection and among other activities, the Division will produce a manual for operationalizing the Addis Ababa Declaration, produce and review reports on the demographic dividend and policy options for youth, and

produce and disseminate policy briefs on the associated activities. In addition, it will conduct a review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

54. Work on strengthening the capacity of governments to respond to the needs of young people in formulating inclusive and sustainable development policies and the Joint Labour Migration Programme initiative will also continue in the biennium.

## **C. Urbanization**

55. With regard to urbanization, the subprogramme will be actively engaged in preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in Quito in 2016, including the finalization of the Africa regional report and the provision of support to the African Union in developing the common African position for Habitat III.

56. Implementation of the project on strengthening member States' capacities in designing and implementing strategies and policies for inclusive and sustainable cities (under the ninth tranche of the Development Account) will continue. Based on knowledge generated in the framework of the project, guidelines and toolkits will be developed, to be used in national training workshops with the overall objective of preparing national action plans for sustainable urbanization policies. A key aspect of this work will be the effort to establish and strengthen the role of urbanization in inclusive growth and transformation through its mainstreaming in national development planning. An assessment will be undertaken to determine whether and how urban issues are integrated into national development strategies, and to pave the way for future monitoring. In addition, knowledge generated through the project will be disseminated for wider impact and uptake, including through a process of e-dialogues on inclusive urbanization in African development planning.

57. Drawing on the outcomes of an assessment undertaken in 2015, and on progress in the implementation and monitoring of goal 11 of Agenda 2030, on cities and human settlements, technical advisory support will also be provided to member States in the strengthening of their urbanization data.

## **V. Conclusion**

58. In the next budget cycle, 2016–2017, the Division will build on the knowledge generated during the 2014–2015 biennium. This will make it possible to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the knowledge accumulated over a longer period and use it to influence policy. This applies in particular to the policy mapping exercise to be conducted in the next biennium, which emanates directly from the roll-out of the African Social Development Index in 2014–2015. As part of this endeavour, the Division will also undertake to measure the impact of national policies against the outcomes captured by the index. This in turn will make it possible to identify policies and their impact on human exclusion and to highlight success stories and lessons learned.

59. Similarly, among its other activities, the Division will also produce and review reports on the demographic dividend and policy options for youth, building on the activities conducted and knowledge generated in the 2014–2015 biennium. Knowledge products such as policy briefs will be produced to help strengthen the capacity of member States and other stakeholders in respect of the issues under consideration.

60. While striving to ensure the sustainability of its work, the Division will continue to generate knowledge in various areas within its purview, such as youth, population, urbanization, employment and social protection, in line with the emerging issues on the continent, and with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Africa's Agenda 2063.