

# STAFF VOICE<sup>ECA</sup>

Issue 8

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November 2014

## COUNTING DOWN TO UN@70

*"Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility. For the person who is unwilling to grow up, the person who does not want to carry his own weight, this is a frightening prospect."*  
—Eleanor Roosevelt, American Delegate to the United Nations

Pictures that made  
history in the life of ECA

The United Nations at Seventy:  
By H.E. Ambassador Berhane Gebrechristos, State Minister

President of the Republic of Ireland,  
Michael D. Higgins, visits the Africa Hall

ECA's Publication and Distribution Unit (PDU) wins 2014  
UN 21 Award for Efficiency

ECA boss Carlos Lopes receives  
the Lifetime Africa Achievement Prize

Kofi Annan Foundation:  
Africa and the United Nations

Could you even imagine a world  
without the United Nations?

*San Francisco Conference, signing ceremony of the United Nations Charter*



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THE NEW SPIRIT OF AFRICA

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*In an attempt to stop wars between countries and to provide a platform for dialogue, the United Nations was established after 50 nations met in San Francisco.*



*Ethiopia was one of the 50 nations, which met in San Francisco to sign the United Nations Charter in 1945. Those in the picture include, Akililu Habtewold, Foreign Minister, Ephrem Tewolde Medhin, Ambassador to the United States of America and Dr. Ambaye Woldemariam, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Justice of the Imperial Government of Ethiopia.*

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## Could you even imagine a world without the United Nations?

By Seble Demeke

“Imagination is more important than knowledge”. Albert Einstein

It seemed as if I had left my home to go on a journey, and I met a group of well-dressed and well-built people. They looked like humans, harassing the little ones who looked like them. They were bossing them around – “do this don’t do that, don’t move, don’t talk”. I said to myself, “Oh, let me just steer away from this group of manlike creatures and continue toward my destination. While I was rushing, I again saw a place, which looked like a market, filled with all kinds of beautiful agricultural produce. I realized, however, that those standing next to the produce were not saying much, they were just looking at their wares. I thought it strange that they seemed so distant from the very produce that was supposed to belong to them, their faces expressionless. “What is this?”, I thought, “let me not get involved, let me just continue on my journey”. I then encountered tens of thousands of people, shouting and fighting, it was chaos, no law and order and no police to keep the order. “Oh”, I said again, “I better continue toward my destination before I get into trouble”. I wished somebody were there to stop the nonsense. Little did I know that worse was still to come. I then saw other people, with firearms, standing on tanks, and others looking up to the sky, where aircraft manned by aliens were dropping what looked like little bombs. “Oh”, I said, “these people are fighting each other and I think they are at war against each other”. I then decided that I’d better get away and escape from that area.

My nightmare was endless, and this time, I was terrified at the strange scene I had just witnessed. It looked like a vast space of land, an earth-like planet, with no green trees, no water, no humans. I came to the conclusion that the place must have suffered, once upon a time, from natural and man-made disasters. The whole place was burnt to ashes. I said again, “Good Lord, what is this and where am I? Are there other people around? I better continue to my destination and get out of here”. I then saw a familiar looking place. It used to have beautiful lakes. However, now, it was an empty land with no sign of life anywhere. I again felt as if I was near a place where the sea used to look as if it was meeting the sky. That place too was empty, filled only with dead fish and other sea creatures out on dry land. It was a sad scene. My heart broke to see the destruction and desolation. But then again, I decided to continue toward my destination. I then saw what looked a group of youngsters handling computers and other technology equipment. There was another group, which seemed surprised to see what the group of youngsters had, and tried to negotiate with them, asking them if it was possible to have the same equipment. I said, “Oh! I hope they will come to an agreement and share the knowledge and technology that the other group is monopolizing”. For me, I had to continue my journey.

This time, it seemed as if I was looking at a big area, fenced with iron and electric wires, and filled with



all kinds of people, men, women, children, black, white, yellow and strangely enough, others had no colour at all. I said, “What are these people doing here?” Someone outside the fence looked at me as if I had come from another planet. I was scared that if I asked questions he might be angry and put me along with those inside the fence. I said, “Oh! I better run and continue toward my destination”. I then thought I saw thousands of people with their hands stretched towards the sky as if they were asking for help. I said, “Oh! These people must be asking for food, medicine, and God knows what else”? I was by then, quite confused about where I was and what I was doing there. At that point, I decided to just stop my journey. I had had my fill of seeing people - men, women, children, the sick and the old, all sitting together and talking to each other, looking as if they were waiting for something or someone to come to their rescue.

Just before waking up from my nightmare I said to myself, “Where is the United Nations in the midst of all these happenings”. I then woke up from my sleep and found out it had all been a nightmare. I thank God for the UNITED NATIONS.

Long live the United Nations!

# Introduction to the 70 years of service by the United Nations to the African continent

By Seble Demeke

The contribution of the United Nations to the African continent began primarily with the support that the institution provided during the continent's struggle for independence from colonial domination and occupation. It is during this difficult time that Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld paid the ultimate price with his life while shuttling between the two Congos to bring about the peace that was required.

Communication with the staff was very important to the former Secretary-General. On 8 September, before leaving for his trip to Congo, he had addressed the staff for the last time on the occasion of Staff Day in the General Assembly Hall.

The celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Organization's service is important for Africa. For Africans, this is the time to remember and be grateful to the United Nations and its regional arm, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), for their support to the political agenda of the continent through partnership with the then Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU). The two African organizations worked hand-in-hand to bring about the Africa that we see today. Indeed, ECA, just like many other organizations at the time, played a significant role in the struggle for the independence of front-line States like Angola, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The freedom that we enjoy today was gained through

tremendous sacrifice, both human and financial.

While the above scenario is a snapshot of the part played by ECA to support the political agenda of OAU/AU during the struggle for independence, the Commission made other major strides on the continent in the past 56 years (1958-2014) in the area of economic and social development is tremendous. These include:

- Establishment of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning;
- Elaboration of the Lagos Plan of Action, a framework for Africa's development;
- Spearheading efforts to draft: the Abuja Treaty for establishing the African Economic Community (AEC); the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes; the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and
- Instituting a transformation agenda for Africa to reflect a "changing world, a new phase of globalization".

Seventy years of the United Nations is also time enough for Africans to reflect on what is next for the continent in terms of partnership with the world organization...how to maximize cooperation and collaboration for mutual benefit. Through the African Union, Africa has initi-



*Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations - 1953 - 1961*

ated Agenda 2063 for the continent's development. The question is how the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes are going to move forward together with Africa high on the agenda.

“Seventy years of the United Nations is also time enough for Africans to reflect on what is next for the continent in terms of partnership with the world organization...how to maximize cooperation and collaboration for mutual benefit.”



## Pictures that made history in the life of ECA



The UN in Africa: original model of Africa Hall being inspected by His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I and Mr. Robert Gardiner, ECA Executive Secretary. This picture represents the beginning of the United Nations presence in Ethiopia



Africa Hall (where OAU was born)



Africa Hall and the New ECA building



With Prof. Adedeji, Executive Secretary of ECA John Adam and Janet Murray (1978)



First Session of the Economic Commission for Africa - 1959

Ninth session of the Economic Commission for Africa held at the Africa Hall and chaired by His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I





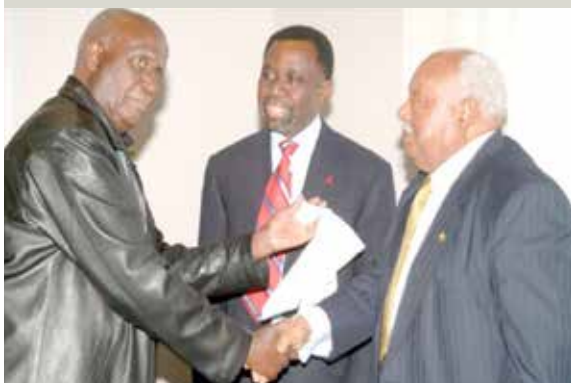
United Nations Secretary-General U Thant accompanied by Executive Secretary Gardiner, paid an official visit to Ethiopia and attended the tenth anniversary of ECA in Addis Ababa. He had an audience with His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie I, Emperor of Ethiopia to discuss the conflict in Nigeria, the Middle East situation and the Viet-Nam war, among other things ( February 1969).



R.K.Gardiner with Ato Ketema Yifru, late foreign Minister of Ethiopia



SG Javier Perez de Cuellar, and A. Adedeji at Africa Hall during the Twenty-third OAU Summit held in July 1987



Presidents Girma Woldegiorgis of Ethiopia and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, and K.Y. Amoako of ECA



Late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia with K.Y. Amoako, Executive Secretary of ECA & Amara Essy, SG of the OAU, 2001-2002



Memorial Service at Africa Hall for the late Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi



### **Mekki Abbas - Sudan - (1959 - 1961)**

Mekki Abbas was the first Executive Secretary of ECA. Under his leadership, ECA promoted statistics for African development and initiated the idea of establishing subregional offices for enhanced service delivery in all subregions. His service at ECA was cut short by his appointment as the Secretary-General's Representative to the Congo.



### **Robert Kweku Gardiner, Ghana (1961-1975)**

In 1962, when Mr. Robert Gardiner took office as the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Commission was still in the process of establishing itself as a relevant centre for development expertise in Africa. Under his leadership, from 1962 to 1975, ECA set up an institutional framework for successful implementation of African development policies and helped to establish the African Development Bank and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning. Under Mr. Gardiner, ECA promoted post-independence original thinking and research on African policy.



### **Prof. Adebayo Adedeji, Nigeria, (1975-1991)**

Under the leadership of Adebayo Adedeji, ECA tackled the challenges of a new international economic order for Africa and adopted landmark policies such as the Lagos Plan of Action. Mr. Adedeji worked to correct the adverse impacts of structural adjustments policies on African economies, offering the African alternative framework to structural adjustment programmes. He led the establishment of the regional economic communities, beginning with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in 1975, drew up the African Charter for Popular Participation, and pushed for the proclamation of UNTACDA I by the United Nations General Assembly.



### **Issa Diallo, Guinea (1991-1992)**

During his appointment as ECA Executive Secretary for a transition period of one year, Mr. Diallo launched the United Nations Transport and Communication Decade for Africa (UNTACDA II) as envisioned in the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community.



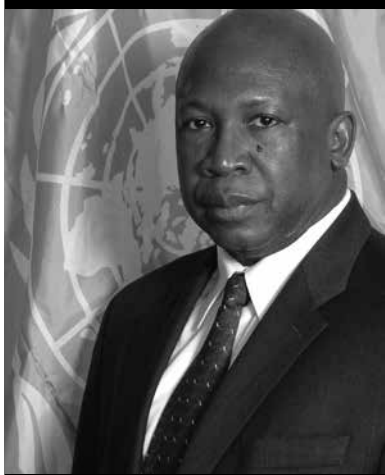
#### **Layashi Yaker, Algeria (1992-1995)**

During his mandate as Executive Secretary, Mr. Yaker led the Commission to the Rio Summit in 1992 and the subsequent effort to carry out the ECA Rio Declaration follow-up activity. He is also remembered for initiating the capacity-building of African countries for sustainable development, by devising strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21. Mr. Yaker also led the adoption of a plan of action to harmonize the objectives of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa within UNTACDA II, in order to facilitate implementation of both initiatives.



#### **K.Y. Amoako, Ghana (1995 – 2005)**

The legacy of Mr. Amoako as an Executive Secretary of ECA was assisting African countries to leapfrog into the information age. He institutionalized the African Development Forum (ADF), whose ninth edition just ended in Morocco. He also gave special attention to promoting the integration of Africa. Under Amoako, cooperation with the AU went into full gear. Stronger ties were also forged with the World Bank, other multilateral institutions and OECD countries. The governance programme started under him and the African Centre for Gender was heightened under his watch. He also provided advisory services to African countries by establishing the Multi Regional Advisory Group with high-level regional advisors. The entire New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) programme, known then as the New African Initiative, started with him.



#### **Abdoulie Janneh, the Gambia (2005 – 2013)**

Mr. Janneh will be remembered for renewing, enhancing and deepening partnerships to enable ECA to better provide support to Africa's development agenda. Under his guidance, ECA established high-level partnerships with governments, the private sector, civil society, development partners and international organizations. He stepped up the cooperation with the African Union through several mechanisms, including the UN Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) for support to the AU and its NEPAD programme. He also gave special attention to promoting regional integration and good governance in Africa.



#### **Carlos Lopes, Guinea Bissau (2012 – 2015)**

Since taking office at ECA in September 2012, Mr. Lopes has brought to the Commission a vision that is premised on "Africa First" with a view to steering Africa's own development path as well as allowing the continent to tell and own its narrative. He has repositioned the organization to serve as the think tank of reference on African development policy issues, to offer analytical insights and innovative ideas grounded by robust statistics, to accelerate Africa's structural transformation and green industrialization drive. Mr. Lopes is also committed to bringing Africa's development vision to the global system and its voice to international negotiations that impact Africa's future, from climate change to trade to Africa's common position post 2015.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Federal  
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

## The United Nations at seventy

By H.E. Ambassador  
Berhane Gebrechristos,  
State Minister, of Foreign  
Affairs of the Federal  
Democratic Republic of  
Ethiopia



The United Nations is turning 70. Seven decades is indeed a significant milestone in the life of the Organization, especially as we recall that its predecessor, the League of Nations, survived a mere two decades. Only two agencies of the United Nations system are older than the United Nations - the Universal Postal Union and the International Labour Organization.

As a founding member of the United Nations, and one of the 50 States (only four of which were African), which signed the charter in San Francisco in June 1945, and an active participant in the organization's current peacekeeping operations in various parts of our continent, and also in past operations in Korea and the Congo, today, Ethiopia is proud to witness this poignant moment in the life of the Organization.

It goes without saying, nevertheless, that an event such as the anniversary of an international organization should not be an occasion for self-congratulations or celebrations but rather an opportune moment for stock-taking and soul searching on the achievements, setbacks and

challenges of the organization. Articulating and affirming an animating vision for the United Nations in the new era and strengthening its role in meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century, will require, first and foremost, looking back and carrying out an honest assessment of the successes and shortcomings of the Organization over the past 70 years.

It should be recalled that in establishing the United Nations, the peoples of the United Nations were determined, in the words of the Charter, "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom"

Following the demise of the League of Nations, this was the second experiment in less than half a century towards an enduring international system.

The purposes of the United Nations set forth in the Charter may be encapsulated in two broad areas: maintenance of international peace and security and promotion of international cooperation in the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian fields.

To this ends, the organization was designed to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these purposes.

As with human beings, life for any organization is not a bed of roses. As we mark the start of the eighth decade of the organization the inevitable question is to what extent the organization has met the aforementioned overarching objectives enshrined in the charter in the past 70 years.

Looking back at the efforts of the United Nations to promote economic and social development, it would not be far from the truth to say that the Organization's efforts in these areas outweigh its performance in the area of maintenance of international peace and security although to its credit, its efforts in

the area of peacekeeping, which was an innovation not envisaged in the charter cannot be gainsaid. In the African context, the stellar performance of the United Nations in the area of decolonization, to which all African States, with the exception of three, owe their existence, remains an enduring legacy of the organization in its seventy years of existence. The endeavours of the various specialized agencies of the United Nations system in their respective areas of competence are sufficient testimony of the commendable efforts it has made in the economic, social and humanitarian fields for the benefit of all peoples of the world.

This historic momentum must continue in the decades ahead if the Organization is to maintain its relevance in international life. Complacency or resting on our laurels should have no place in the activities of the Organization. In this

connection, Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, in presenting his annual report to the Fifty-fourth Session of the General Assembly said:

We leave a century of unparalleled suffering and violence. Our greatest and most enduring test remains our ability to gain the respect and support of the peoples of the world.

These words are as relevant today as they were 15 years ago. As host to 27 international organizations, eight of which are regional and subregional, principally ECA and AU, Ethiopia has become a preeminent centre of international activity in Africa. As such, in the pursuit of the inexorable march of history in the life of the United Nations, Ethiopia reaffirms its commitment to the ideals of the Organization as enunciated in its Charter.

“ As with human beings, life for any organization is not a bed of roses. As we mark the start of the eighth decade of the organization the inevitable question is to what extent the organization has met the aforementioned overarching objectives enshrined in the charter in the past 70 years. ”

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## Economic Commission for Africa

### Statement by Abdalla Hamdok Deputy Executive Secretary

It has always been a delight to speak to you as the Editor-in-chief of the UNECA Staff Voice Magazine. Let me use this opportunity to convey the appreciation of Senior Management to you and your team for the good work that you are doing.

Let me start by saying that the Economic Commission for Africa is the oldest Pan-African institution. As you know so well Seble, ECA was established in 1958, some years before the establishment of the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank. As a matter of fact, ECA played a major role in the processes that led to the establishment of both the OAU and AfDB in the early 1960s. Since its inception, ECA has accompanied the African continent in its development journey on a number of fronts – including taking a lead in the formulation of major continental development declarations and plans such as the Monrovia Declaration of 1979, which gave rise to the Lagos Plan of Action and the Full Act of Lagos in 1980/1981; the Abuja Treaty in 1991 and the last kid on the block, the NEPAD initiative in 2001. ECA also played a prominent role in the establishment of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), including through the deployment of one of its key staff members, late Mr. Murtharika to oversee its establishment and also to serve as its first Executive Secretary. You would recall that Mr. Murtharika later became president of the



Republic of Malawi. ECA also played roles in the establishment of a number of other regional economic communities, including the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (now the Southern African Development Community) and even ECOWAS.

Beyond assisting in the establishment of continental development plans and institutions, ECA was also in the forefront in the articulation of African perspectives on diverse global development issues, always striving to ensure that the continent's peculiar development challenges were taken on board. It has continued to support efforts by African countries in the areas of macroeconomic policy development, regional integration, trade policy formulation, governance, industrialization, agricultural development and infrastructure.

One of the most remarkable watersheds in ECA support to Africa's development journey was its formulation of the African alternative to structural adjustment programmes (AFSAP), which brought out the drawbacks of structural adjustment programmes in Africa. You would recall that these structural adjustment programmes were initiated by the Bretton Woods institutions and

adopted by most African countries in the late 1980s and 1990s. I strongly believe that ECA-AFSAP has continued to be vindicated, as clearly evidenced by the revival and growing prominence of development planning, as well as the continued recognition of the role of the State and State institutions in the development process. In some real sense therefore, we can assert without fear of contradiction that the journey of ECA has indeed been the journey of Africa's development.

Talking about the strengths of the United Nations system and specifically about the strengths of ECA in Africa, I think, by and large, that being part of the institutional landscape of the continent, ECA is seen as an honest broker, which harbours no ulterior agenda beyond advancing the African agenda and contributing to the creation of an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect among various stakeholders in the continent's development.

With regard to weaknesses, the first area that comes to mind is of course the constant struggle to address the resource needs for the advancement of the African agenda. Africa's expectations from ECA and the broader United Nations have continued to expand, even



as available resources have been shrinking because of global economic hard times. To respond to these resource constraints, ECA and the broader United Nations are increasingly learning to do more with less. The other weaknesses of ECA are actually a reflection of the weaknesses of the continent. These include deficits in infrastructure and governance challenges.

Let me now address the last issue you raised on where we go from here. As I said, the United Nations does not have a separate agenda for

Africa. Africa has to decide what its priority needs are; as well as define and own its own agenda. The policy of the United Nations is to support Africa once it defines its agenda. Here, I would like to mention that following the 50th anniversary celebration of the establishment of the OAU/AU, and on the heels of an express request from African leaders, ECA, alongside other strategic partners such as AfDB, joined the African Union Commission in efforts to develop a new long-term vision for the continent for the next 50 years – in what has come to be

known as Agenda 2063. Agenda 2063 seeks, among others, to define the development priorities for the continent; identify major sectoral policy interventions; define short-, medium- and long-term plans; and also map out some scenarios for the continent. The ECA is excited to be part of this process and we will want to accompany the continent in yet another defining journey in its development history – a journey towards a more prosperous and peaceful continent that would ably occupy its rightful place in the global system.

## The North Office Facility Building at the UNECA

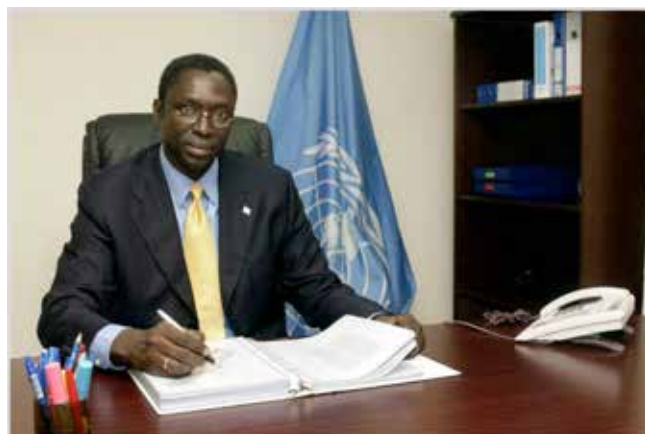


The North Office Facility Building at the UNECA Compound hosts 6 additional UN organizations namely, UNOAU, UNAMID, UNICEF, UNOPS, WHO and the UNHCR representative to AU and ECA.”

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),  
Regional Bureau for Africa**

## **Innovation: The new currency for emergence in Africa: preliminary draft for discussion:**

By Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Assistant  
Administrator and Director of the Regional  
Bureau for Africa



The 70-year anniversary of the United Nations is an invitation to look back at what the organization has done in Africa, and also an opportunity to project what the United Nations could do going forward. What we do has to change with the aspirations and dynamism of the continent - continent that is changing fast and where many countries aspire to be an “emerging country.” “Emergence” is taking over the “Africa Renaissance”, which was popular in the late 1990s. Perhaps because we have already witnessed a renaissance in economic growth. With “emergence,” African countries are saying that they want more than a rebirth in growth. They want to structurally transform their economies, rapidly improve the standards of living of their people, and assert their economic and political clout globally.

To this end, innovation is the new currency required for Africa’s development. Why? First, because high economic growth rates over the long run can only be sustained with innovation. Rapidly growing economies in Africa are rebounding from conflict, selling primary commodities at the high international prices, or catching-up on years of underinvestment in infrastructure, health,

and education. This is building up much needed physical and human capital, but high-growth can only continue if accumulation goes along with transformation. Eventually, the returns to more and more capital start coming down, while jobs and livelihoods will only continue to grow if economic activity occurs in more productive sectors. Indeed, it is only innovation – understood as the application of new and existing knowledge to develop improved products and modes of production – can do that systematically.

As an illustration, when irrigation and fertilizer use improved in Asia in the 1960s, there was initially little gain in agricultural productivity because crops were growing bigger and leafier, but there was not much improvement in the quantity of grain yielded. A scientific and technological effort was needed to develop crops that were able to transform better agricultural inputs into more grain – the essence of what became known as the green revolution. These were radical innovations that were developed and diffused in the unique circumstances of Asia. Despite impressive efforts in improving farming practices in some places, a similar breakthrough at the continental

level has yet to happen in Africa. A stronger commitment to innovation to advance agricultural productivity is needed for that breakthrough.

Innovation also matters in the delivery of social services. This is a different type of innovation, and while also based on science and knowledge, often requires very low-tech interventions. One example is the reduction in child mortality that some countries have registered in Africa. In Senegal, from 2005 to 2010, the under-five mortality rate declined by almost 10 per cent a year. A comparable reduction in India took 25 years. On average, considering countries for which there is data after 2005, the under-five child mortality rate in Africa has been dropping by 4.2 per cent a year. While no single factor is responsible, the increased distribution of insecticide-treated bed-nets, seems to have contributed to reducing the incidence of malaria - in endemic areas as much as a 50 per cent in some countries.

This shows that the economic and social impact of innovation occurs when it is diffused at scale. And here, Africa has a huge opportunity to leapfrog technologically. For example, most of the continent’s countries already have rates of adoption of cellular phones that vastly surpass those of fixed lines.

They did not have to go through the fixed to mobile phone lines transition. Similar developments are conceivable with energy access, as innovations keep bringing down the price of solar and wind energy.

Finally, innovation is crucial for emergence because it is an outlay for the tremendous creative force of the continent, and especially its youth. Africa is not merely a place where technologies and ideas created elsewhere are diffused, but it is generated its own global innovations. In Kenya, for instance, M-pesa – a cell phone based person-

to-person money transfer system – showed remarkable ingenuity in overcoming the unique constraints of a developing financial system by using the potential of mobile technology. Launched in 2007, M-pesa grew from 52,000 users to more than 14 million in 2011.

Innovation is crucial for Africa's emergence, but it does not just happen out of the blue. It needs to be nurtured. That is why UNDP, with its new strategic plan, is devoting resources and putting in place mechanisms to systematically support innovation. It is also encourag-

ing to see that the African Union has just adopted a science, technology and innovation strategy for Africa, while its Common Africa Position for the post-2015 development agenda also emphasizes innovation. With deliberate national and regional policies, we can jointly make innovation happen in Africa. Looking ahead to the next 70 years, nurturing and fostering innovation in Africa is a calling for UNDP and the broader United Nations.

## United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

### Judith Karl, Executive Secretary

UNECA Staff Voice interviewed recently appointed United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Executive Secretary Judith Karl, during her visit to Ethiopia from 17 to 19 September 2014. Ms. Karl has talked about UNCDF's history and focus on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), its unique financial mandate within the United Nations system and its work in Africa within two core areas of expertise: Inclusive Finance and Local Development Finance.  
by Seble Demeke

*"The United Nations has the power to innovate and partner with Africa to really achieve its very ambitious goals for an inclusive growth agenda in the coming decades".*

Created by the General Assembly in 1966 to promote economic develop-

ment, UNCDF began focusing the world's least developed countries in the mid-1970s. From its inception, a major part of the UNCDF's work has been focused on the African continent.

For the next twenty years UNCDF financed stand-alone capital infrastructure – roads, bridges, irrigation schemes – mostly in Africa. This approach gave particular attention to the rural areas in order to afford the populations' access to larger markets and the large infrastructures being built by other organizations.

In the mid-1990s UNCDF began to focus to the role local governments could play in planning, financing and maintaining capital



investments. Promoting effective infrastructure investment and service delivery via decentralized public financial management has been the mainstay of UNCDF ever since. UNCDF started focusing on how to engage local populations in the decision-making process that governs development choices made with public resources. In recent years, UNCDF has assisted several African countries to develop their decentralization national policies and fiscal transfer systems. These



national policies have become the bedrock for more focused investment of national domestic resources in local and rural economic development.

Today UNCDF operates in two broad areas: Inclusive Finance and Local Development Finance. UNCDF has also begun work on catalyzing domestic finance for public-private-partnerships geared to stimulating economic growth at the local level. 70 per cent of its portfolio is in Africa.

UNCDF has a unique financial mandate within the UN system. It provides investment capital and technical support to both the public and the private sector. The ability to provide capital financing – in the forms of grants, soft loans and credit enhancement – and the technical expertise in preparing portfolios of sustainable and resilient capacity building and infrastructure projects, positions UNCDF as an early stage investor to de-risk opportunities that can later be scaled up by institutional financial partners and increasingly by philanthropic foundations and private sector investors.

UNCDF has also a proven track record in developing local public finance capacities, which were brought to a national scale by larger development partners (i.e. World Bank). It is also one of the development agencies most involved in promoting financial inclusion through a market development approach. From an early support to national microfinance strategies in the 1990s, UNCDF has recently profoundly updated its market development approach through the development of innovative global programmes to enable poor people to access financial services, and a new diagnostic tool and program-

matic framework to support the development of national financial inclusion strategies.

UNCDF resources remain modest compared to many multilateral organizations. But it has developed a considerable track record of “leveraging in” larger sources of public and private capital. In the words of a 2008 assessment by the Government of Sweden, “UNCDF should be seen as a development actor that paves the way for others, rather than a financing mechanism.” In particular, UNCDF has a strong experience in the African continent of helping to pave the way for big investors to come in and replicate its pilot approaches. The leverage capacity is to the order of 1:10 from e.g. International Financial Institutions, domestic sources and impact investors.

Likewise many other UN agencies, despite the growth in non-core resources, i.e. those resources earmarked for a given programme, UNCDF regular resources remains the biggest the organization currently faces. The shortfall in core resources forced UNCDF to cancel its programming in some LDCs.

Regular resources are, and will continue to be, at the heart of the UNCDF’s ability to deliver results. They finance the UNCDF long term expertise, corporate management, and oversight systems. They help the organization build country office presence and direct support to the poorest and most vulnerable. Because of desire of UNCDF to be able to support all African least developed countries, UNCDF is continuing to deepen dialogue with member states on partnerships to achieve the threshold level of regular resources needed to implement new Inclusive Finance and Local

Development Finance programmes in Africa.

In terms of the UNCDF’s future endeavours, the Executive Secretary would draw on the very strong commitment for an inclusive agenda, shown by the countries she had visited during her tour, which included Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania.

“Today UNCDF operates in two broad areas: Inclusive Finance and Local Development Finance. UNCDF has also begun work on catalyzing domestic finance for public-private-partnerships geared to stimulating economic growth at the local level. 70 per cent of its portfolio is in Africa.”



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United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

## UN@70 Personal thoughts

By Firmin Edouard Matoko, Director of UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa



The United Nations Charter adopted in 1945 states in its preamble that “WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war (...) and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom....”

After almost seven decades of United Nations presence in Africa, what have WE, the AFRICAN PEOPLE, retained from the different interventions of the United Nations on the continent? Looking at the present situation of the majority of African countries, with the persistence of ethnic conflicts, extreme poverty, the highest number of protracted refugees and political instability, certainly the action of the United Nations globally seems to have been poor. However, African people do recognize also that without the United Nations, Africa's picture today would have been different.

The most significant action of the UN that most of the African people would like to recall forever is the highest contribution to the

independence and the liberation of African people from colonization and foreign domination. The independence of Congo for which the UN paid a high price would not have been possible without the intervention of the UN peace forces. The struggle of African liberation movements have succeeded thanks to the continuous support of the UN. Last but not least, the end of the Apartheid was made possible through continuous and concerted actions of UN Member states. Only 30 years ago, Africa has been totally freed from foreign domination. In spite of many gaps and “un-achieved businesses” (in education, health, good governance, etc.), Africa can claim today its freedom, its liberty of expression, its presence at the international scene, its recognition as a full member of the international community.

We AFRICAN PEOPLE should be proud of what UN's contribution to the liberation and emancipation of Africa. The challenge remains to make sure that all African citizens benefit without discrimination and exclusion from the wealth of richness of our continent.

The UN is still well placed to realize Africa's dream to become “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.”

“ After almost seven decades of United Nations presence in Africa, what have WE, the AFRICAN PEOPLE, retained from the different interventions of the United Nations on the continent? ”



## World Food Programme (WFP)

## From Addis to Malabo

By Wanja Kaaria: Deputy Director of WFP

It has been three months since I joined the WFP Africa Office. I am here because I believe in the mission of this Office in terms of positioning WFP as a credible and strategic partner to the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa and the regional economic communities. It is key that this office continues to enhance the understanding of WFP's key role in promoting sustainable food and nutrition security in Africa. I knew this was where I needed to be, if I wanted to make a difference in this continent. This is the very same inspiration that continues to drive me today.

2014 was one of the best years of the WFP Africa Office. The African Union has played a key role in prioritizing nutrition in the continent and in taking up the challenge of addressing the continent's nutrition problems. During the 22nd Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, the Heads of State and Government appointed King Letsie III of Lesotho as the African Nutrition Champion with the mandate of advocating to eliminate child under-nutrition. Furthermore during the 23rd AU Summit in Equatorial Guinea leaders resolved to move towards an AU declaration on the Cost of Hunger in Africa study – an endorsement at the highest level possible by Heads of African states.

The Cost of Hunger Study in Africa (COHA) is a project led by the African Union Commission (AUC)

and supported by ECA and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). The multi-country study aims to demonstrate the costs to the national economy as a result of child under-nutrition and the possible economic returns that can be gained if appropriate investments in nutrition are undertaken.

In the final Malabo Declaration, the Heads of State and Government have urged all AU member States to consider participation in the COHA study in Africa to support the Summit's theme of the African Year of Agriculture and Food Security. The Malabo Declaration solidifies a previous declaration in Addis Ababa by Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development calling to scale up the study to more countries.

As we went from the Addis Declaration to the Malabo Declaration by Heads of States, we have seen great success. The first report of the Cost of Hunger in Africa study from Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda jointly produced by the AUC, ECA and the WFP, was launched in March 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria during a high level event organized on the sidelines of the Seventh Joint AU and ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Furthermore, COHA was placed on the Tokyo International Conference



on African Development platform during the Foreign Ministers meeting, recommending that the TICAD process should support African countries' efforts to ensure that the continent's concerns are fully taken into account, as it strives to eliminate stunting.

In addition, African Ministers of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture met at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa on the first week of May 2014 where they deliberated and charted the way forward for transforming Agriculture in Africa. The Ministers made reference to the findings of the Cost of Hunger in Africa study which reported the impacts of under-nutrition on social and economic developments.

Having been discussed in several high level platforms, the results of COHA have the potential to ignite strong and decisive actions and push for stronger political commitment and for the need of a comprehensive response from the social development sector. It is now

*Continued on page 76*

## World Health Organization (WHO)

Dr Pierre M'Pele-Kilebou,  
Representative to Ethiopia

“The United Nations is for the united people from all corners of the world. The success of the United Nations is for all, but its failure, is only for us, the staff. Peace, solidarity, better health and quality of life, can be achieved if we, the United Nations work as One with the united people of the world.”



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## Kofi Annan Foundation, Africa and the United Nations: A personal perspective

By Alan Doss, Executive Director

"Kofi Annan is the founding chair of the Kofi Annan Foundation. With the foundation, Mr. Annan drives action towards a fairer, more secure world by promoting sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights".

Since the early days of the independence struggles, the United Nations has been an enduring partner for Africa. My own UN career began in Africa where I went to work in 1966 at the UNDP office in Nairobi, led then by a distinguished ECA alumnus, Bernard Chidzero. In the years that followed, I found myself returning every decade to live and work Africa, a witness to its advances and its agonies, to its tragedies and triumphs.

Today, the mood is more optimistic than ever despite the dark shadow cast by the Ebola crisis. Africa is changing, and it is changing rapidly. With seven of the world's fastest-growing economies on the continent, and a rapidly rising middle-class, the continent's perception in the world is shifting quite decisively.

The United Nations through the UNECA and other UN institutions will continue to partner with Africa taking account both of the profound changes that are occurring and the huge challenges that remain.

The spread of multi-party politics and regular elections is a welcome

development.

However, this trend must not serve as false veneer of democratic legitimacy. The UN has a critical role to play in throwing its weight behind Africa's popular democratic aspirations.

Let us remember too that the road to democracy and development must be bolstered by policies and practices that promote transparency and trust. As the Africa Progress Panel has pointed out, Africa loses twice as much in illicit financial outflows as it receives in international aid. This is not Africa's problem alone. Foreign companies and governments must also sign on to and implement the same principles of responsibility and accountability.

Africa remains the only continent that cannot feed itself — a deeply worrying fact given that its population is projected to double by 2050 and that climate change is forecast to hit Africa hard. Agricultural productivity at present is less than a third of what it could be. But with the right policies, Africa has the potential to become an agricultural superpower. The UN is well placed to assist Africa achieve that ambition.

Many of the goals formulated in the MDGs remain out of reach for Afri-



“As the Africa Progress Panel has pointed out, Africa loses twice as much in illicit financial outflows as it receives in international aid.”

can countries. As the international community considers the post-2015 agenda, the United Nations has to ensure that the new goals reflect the complexity and diversity of the development challenges facing the continent and makes sure that Africa's voice is heard in the debate and decisions.

At the Kofi Annan Foundation, we ever mindful of the timeless advice of our founder (another distinguished ECA alumnus) that there can be no long-term development without security and no long-term security without development. Nor will any society remain prosperous for long without the rule of law and respect for human rights. That is the enduring lesson of experience that we and the United Nations must heed and apply in our continuing commitment to Africa and its peoples.





## Innovative Financing a Must for Africa

A mythical figure of African history, the Moroccan Ibn Battuta, considered one of the greatest travelers of all times, arrived in Somalia in 1331. He was surprised with Mogadishu's prosperity. He described this port city as being full of rich merchants, particularly active on the exports to many countries of high quality local fabrics. Its Sultan Abu Bakr Umar had a well established government with wazirs, legal experts, commanders and tax collectors.

Today's Mogadishu, six centuries later, continues to be an amazingly active port, despite decades of a devastating civil war. It continues to be an exporter. The problem is that instead of high quality fabrics it has shifted to bovine, sheep and goats, or lower value addition, in the jargon of the economists. The cost of all the war fronts, from piracy response to terrorism, exceeds its export value. Today's government does not have a tax collection system as efficient as Abu Bakr Umar's.

How is it possible that one of the few countries with one language, religion and ethnic group could have been moving backwards for so long?

The reasons for such dramatic developments are complex. But some lessons should be learned from glorious Somalia, since most of Africa has moved out of violent conflict. In fact the continent has today less turmoil than Asia, and close to 90% of its population is no longer exposed to war and complex emergencies. Despite the gains in the Africa narrative, the continent continues to be perceived by

many as unstable and insecure, and prone to disease, yet again, as seen by the hysteria around Ebola. Ebola affects 3 countries that represent less than one percent of Africa's GDP, or 3 weeks of the Nigerian economy.

The lessons to retain from Somalia, apart from the need to move towards a peaceful and attractive environment, are more related to the economy.

Africans feel legitimately proud about their growth achievements over the last decade and a half; and how resilient to exogenous shocks their economies have been. The October IMF outlook says it all: Africa as a whole will be expected to grow above 5% in 2014. However, Africans, normally, are stunned when they learn their manufacturing value addition has been going down during the same period, from an already very low base (it currently stands at 9% of combined GDP). That is one of the reasons we call for structural transformation; and we say it has to be qualified in the form of higher agricultural productivity, modernizing and formalizing the large service sector, better use of the natural resources richness and, of course, industrialization.

After two years debating structural transformation and its imperatives, such as regional integration, demographic dividend and ur-



banization opportunities or climate change challenges, time has come to address more squarely the key question of how to finance Africa's transformation. The old way, begging for aid? Is there a new way? How should Africa prepare for the finance for development large UN Conference it will host in Addis Ababa in 2015? A discussion, more crucial for Africa than any other region?

Africa learned from the financial crash of 2008 the importance to build on strong foundations. This requires a paradigm shift in the mind of the fund managers and capital market perception and thinking about Africa.

Private equity in Africa demonstrated that benefits do not only accrue to limited partners, general partners and portfolio companies, but also to Africans through local and regional markets. Africa, might have finally found a way to whet the appetite of private equity investors. Private equity is an alternative source of capital that spans across infrastructure, health services, agriculture and underserved but high return investment. Each success breeds new opportunities and a resounding narrative for the transformation of Africa.

The ability to strengthen, build and preserve capital in Africa is in line with Africa's search for innovative financing mechanisms. In the recent years, African governments have taken an active role in changing the investment landscape. Aid is no longer the panacea. This shift is associated with evidence-based policies. Economic activity thrives at the confluence of multiple sources of capital. As Africa's build its reputation in the global capital market, each success story establishes it as a destination for global capital flows. Driving them to transformational projects is what is expected from governments that are strategic and focussed.

Notwithstanding the backbone of the transformation agenda, infrastructure, Africa offers opportunities in road, rail transport, energy, water, mineral resources exploitation, and agro-business and industrial development. The opportunity to diversify an investors' portfolio is not negligible. However, it remains a challenge given the stark lack of liquidity and the scarce access to capital markets. African regulatory bodies need to engage meaningfully with private equity funds to understand the legal and regulatory requirement for a radiant African ecosystem.

African governments have responsibilities to fulfil in order to create an enabling environment. National, regional and continental ecosystems must be upgraded to better support large scale investments. Africa has come a long way. It, now, has increasingly stable and predictable economic and political environment. Its reducing political and economic risk provides more confidence for investors. Governments' efforts for structural transformation are supported by

an increased pool of well-educated and enterprising workers. The real test is the confidence that capital will afford to Africa by resisting the temptation of a flitting experience. The reality is that Africa cannot rely on development aid for the transformation agenda, therefore its appetite is moving towards private investment and domestic resource mobilization.

In a changing world, governments can no longer ignore the blurred lines between private and social sectors. Impact investing with its focus on better outcomes has the potential to transform social desires into successful outcomes.

For instance it is true that a key challenge facing Africans today continues to be food security, along with the development of a sustainable agricultural sector. In particular, the African agricultural sector is deficient in capital needed to improve farm productivity, enhance crop yields and produce more food for local consumption. Studies show that growth in the agricultural sector has a thrice greater impact on poverty reduction than growth in other sectors.

Climate finance offer unique windows to deal with both climate change and the repositioning of Africa has a cleaner producer, by leapfrogging technological platforms and tapping the exceptional renewable energy potential of the continent.

The potential of domestic resource mobilization is immense. From better contract negotiations of extractive and other natural resources, to improved tax systems, or better use of sovereign funds and reserves, Africa has been short-changed by lack of appropriate policies.

Illicit financial flow is another scandal that needs a closer look. If the continent finds itself at the bottom of the Transparency Index is as much because the current state of affairs serves the interests of those who rank it as it is because of the local beneficiaries of corruption. Denouncing illicit financial flows is not just a moral imperative. It is a good input for transformative policies too.

Africa's migrants are sending in excess of US\$ 50 billion, paying the world's highest transfer fees on top of their human sacrifice. The use of this asset class is far from productive right now. With a few exceptions recipient countries have a long way to go to establish attractive vehicles for these funds.

Global impact investments accounted for about US \$8 billion in 2012, a third of it going to Africa. Impact investments are clearly an emerging and innovative source of finance that has the potential to become an important complement to traditional investments. Impact investments can have both direct and indirect positive effects on human development in areas such as education, health and the environment.

My dream is that when African children enter a history class and read Ibn Battuta's descriptions, they will feel like any other children from a modern, inclusive and developed part of the world. African children should feel amazed about how much Ibn has travelled but, also, how much their own societies have travelled; because they will know their continent, Africa, is the new development frontier. This is in our hands. This is possible.

Theme Category: Macroeconomic Policy



## Les Financements Innovants sont une Obligation Pour L'Afrique

Une personnalité mythique de l'histoire africaine, le Marocain Ibn Battuta, que l'on considère comme l'un des plus grands voyageurs de tous les temps, est arrivé en Somalie en 1331. Surpris par la prospérité de Mogadiscio, il disait de cette ville portuaire qu'elle était peuplée de riches marchands, particulièrement actifs dans le domaine des exportations de tissus locaux de grande qualité vers de nombreux pays. Le Sultan, Abou Bakr Omar, avait mis en place une solide administration comprenant des vizirs, des juristes, des commandants et des percepteurs.

Le Mogadiscio d'aujourd'hui, six siècles plus tard, reste un port incroyablement actif, malgré des décennies d'une guerre civile dévastatrice. La ville continue d'exporter. Le problème est que, au lieu de tissus de qualité, elle exporte désormais des bovins, des moutons et des chèvres ou des produits à faible valeur ajoutée, comme disent les économistes. Le coût des fléaux de la guerre, de la piraterie au terrorisme, est supérieur au montant des exportations. Le Gouvernement actuel ne dispose pas d'un système de recouvrement de l'impôt aussi efficace que celui d'Abou Bakr Omar.

Comment est-il possible que l'un des rares pays à n'avoir qu'une seule langue, une seule religion et un seul groupe ethnique ait pu reculer autant et pendant si longtemps?

Les raisons de cette évolution tragique sont complexes mais l'on a certainement à apprendre de cette glorieuse Somalie, la majeure partie

de l'Afrique ayant connu des conflits violents. En fait, le continent connaît aujourd'hui moins de troubles que l'Asie, et près de 90 %

de sa population n'est plus exposée à la guerre ou à des situations d'urgence complexes. Même si l'image de l'Afrique s'est améliorée, le continent continue d'être perçu par beaucoup comme instable, peu sûr et vulnérable face à la maladie, comme l'a montré encore une fois l'hystérie autour d'Ébola. Le virus touche trois pays qui représentent moins d'un pour cent du PIB de l'Afrique, ou trois semaines de l'économie nigériane.

Les leçons à retenir de la Somalie, outre la nécessité d'aller vers un environnement pacifique et attrayant, ont davantage trait à l'économie.

Les Africains sont légitimement fiers de la croissance qu'ils ont enregistrée au cours des quinze dernières années, et de la façon dont leurs différentes économies ont résisté face aux chocs exogènes. Les perspectives que le FMI vient de publier en octobre sont éloquentes: l'Afrique dans son ensemble devrait enregistrer une croissance de plus de 5 % en 2014. Pourtant, et ce n'est pas étonnant, les Africains sont stupéfaits quand ils apprennent que la valeur ajoutée dans le secteur manufacturier a diminué au cours de la même période, alors qu'elle se trouvait déjà à un niveau très bas (elle s'élève actuellement à



9 % du PIB combiné). C'est l'une des raisons pour lesquelles nous appelons à la transformation structurelle, et que cela doit se traduire selon nous par l'amélioration de la productivité agricole, la modernisation et la formalisation du vaste secteur des services, une meilleure utilisation des très riches ressources naturelles du continent et, bien sûr, l'industrialisation.

Après deux ans de débats autour de la transformation structurelle et de ses impératifs, comme l'intégration régionale, le dividende démographique, les perspectives d'urbanisation ou encore les défis découlant des changements climatiques, le temps est venu de répondre vraiment à la grande question de savoir comment financer la transformation de l'Afrique. À l'ancienne, en suppliant pour obtenir de l'aide? Existe-t-il un autre moyen? Comment l'Afrique doit-elle se préparer pour la grande Conférence de l'ONU sur le financement du développement, qu'elle accueillera à Addis-Abeba en 2015? C'est un débat qui revêt plus d'importance pour l'Afrique que pour toute autre région?

L'Afrique a tiré les enseignements de la débâcle financière de 2008 et compris l'importance de prendre



appui sur une base solide. Il faut pour cela un changement de paradigme dans l'esprit des gestionnaires de fonds, en particulier s'agissant de la façon est perçue l'Afrique sur les marchés des capitaux.

L'expérience du capital-investissement en Afrique a démontré que les bénéfices ne se limitent pas aux commanditaires, aux commandités et aux sociétés d'investissement; l'Afrique en profite aussi par l'intermédiaire des marchés locaux et régionaux. Il se peut qu'elle ait, en fin de compte, trouvé le moyen d'aiguiser l'appétit des investisseurs privés. Le capital-investissement est une autre source de capitaux, qui peut s'appliquer aux infrastructures, aux services de santé, à l'agriculture et aux secteurs mal desservis mais à haut rendement. Chaque exemple de réussite ouvre des perspectives nouvelles et montre de façon éclatante la transformation de l'Afrique.

La capacité de renforcer, mobiliser et préserver les capitaux en Afrique correspond à la recherche de mécanismes de financement innovants sur ce continent. Ces dernières années, les gouvernements africains ont contribué activement à la modification des possibilités d'investissement. L'aide n'est plus la panacée. Cette évolution va de pair avec des politiques reposant sur des bases concrètes. L'activité économique prospère grâce à la multiplicité des sources de capitaux. À mesure que la réputation de l'Afrique grandit sur les marchés des capitaux au niveau mondial, chaque initiative particulièrement réussie fait du continent une destination de choix pour les flux mondiaux de capitaux. On attend de gouvernements dotés d'une vision stratégique qu'ils se servent de ces capitaux pour financer des projets de transformation. Bien que les infrastructures soient

l'élément clef du programme de transformation, il existe en Afrique des perspectives d'investissement dans des secteurs tels que le transport routier et ferroviaire, l'énergie, l'eau, l'exploitation des ressources minières, l'agro-alimentaire et le développement industriel. La possibilité offerte aux investisseurs de diversifier leur portefeuille n'est pas négligeable, mais elle demeure un défi compte tenu de l'absence marquée de liquidités et l'accès limité aux marchés de capitaux. Les organismes de réglementation africains doivent instaurer un véritable dialogue avec les fonds d'investissement pour bien comprendre les règles à respecter sur les plans juridique et réglementaire pour promouvoir un écosystème dynamique en Afrique.

Les gouvernements africains ont des responsabilités à assumer afin de créer un environnement porteur. Il convient d'améliorer les écosystèmes aux niveaux national, régional et continental pour encourager davantage les investissements à grande échelle. L'Afrique a fait des progrès considérables et son environnement économique et politique est de plus en plus stable et prévisible. La réduction des risques politiques et économiques renforce la confiance des investisseurs. Les initiatives prises par les gouvernements en matière de transformation structurelle s'appuient sur un nombre croissant d'individus ayant la formation requise et l'esprit d'entreprise.

Le vrai critère est la confiance que les capitaux accorderont à l'Afrique, en résistant à la tentation d'une expérience sans lendemain. La réalité est que l'Afrique ne peut compter sur l'aide au développement pour se transformer; elle s'oriente donc vers l'investissement privé et la mobilisation des ressources nationales.

Dans un monde en pleine mutation, il n'est plus possible pour les gouvernements de faire abstraction de la distinction de plus en plus floue entre le secteur privé et le secteur social. Les investissements d'impact axés sur l'amélioration des résultats peuvent concrétiser les désirs de la société.

Par exemple, il est vrai que pour les Africains, la sécurité alimentaire et le développement d'une agriculture durable constituent toujours un défi majeur. Plus particulièrement, le secteur agricole en Afrique manque des capitaux nécessaires pour améliorer la productivité et les rendements et produire davantage pour la consommation locale. Des études montrent que la croissance du secteur agricole a trois fois plus d'impact sur la réduction de la pauvreté que la croissance d'autres secteurs.

Le financement climatique offre des perspectives uniques pour faire face aux changements climatiques et redéfinir la position de l'Afrique comme étant un producteur plus propre, en contournant les plateformes technologiques et en exploitant le potentiel exceptionnel d'énergies renouvelables dont est doté le continent.

La mobilisation des ressources nationales a un potentiel immense. Qu'il s'agisse de mieux négocier les contrats d'exploitation des ressources minières ou d'autres ressources naturelles, d'améliorer la fiscalité ou de mieux utiliser les fonds souverains et les réserves des pays, l'Afrique a souffert du manque de politiques appropriées.

Les flux illicites de capitaux sont un autre scandale sur lequel nous devons nous pencher de plus près. Si le continent se trouve tout en bas de l'Indice de transparence, c'est

tout autant en raison de la situation actuelle qui sert les intérêts de ceux qui établissent le classement que de ceux qui profitent de la corruption dans les pays. Le fait de dénoncer les flux illicites de capitaux est non seulement un impératif moral; cela contribue aussi à l'élaboration de politiques de transformation.

Les migrants africains envoient plus de 50 milliards de dollars des États-Unis et, outre le sacrifice que cela représente pour eux, ils paient les commissions de transfert les plus élevées du monde. À l'heure actuelle, l'utilisation de cette catégorie d'actifs est loin d'être productive. À de rares exceptions près, les pays bénéficiaires ont encore beaucoup à faire pour trouver des moyens intéressants d'utiliser ces fonds.

En 2012, les investissements d'impact ont représenté environ 8 milliards de dollars dans le monde et un tiers d'entre eux sont allés en Afrique. Il s'agit là d'une nouvelle source novatrice de financement qui pourrait bien devenir un complément important des placements traditionnels. Les investissements d'impact peuvent avoir des effets positifs directs et indirects sur le développement humain dans des domaines tels que l'éducation, la santé et l'environnement.

Mon rêve est que les enfants africains, lorsqu'ils étudieront les expéditions d'Ibn Battuta en histoire, se sentent comme tous les autres enfants des pays développés et modernes de la planète. Les enfants africains doivent s'émerveiller non seulement des nombreux voyages effectués par Ibn Battuta, mais aussi du long chemin parcouru par leur propre pays, et ils sauront alors que leur continent, l'Afrique, est le nouvel eldorado. Ce rêve est à notre portée, ce rêve peut devenir réalité.

## ECA boss Carlos Lopes receives the Lifetime Africa Achievement Prize

Economic Commission for Africa's Executive Secretary, Carlos Lopes has been awarded the prestigious Lifetime Africa Achievement Prize (LAAP) by the Millennium Excellence Foundation for his contributions to overturn Africa's economic fortunes, in the category Action for Africa. The award ceremony took place in Lagos, Nigeria on October 10.



The Action for Africa LAAP, is given to an individual with foresight and visionary political ideals that contributes towards the transformation of Africa from being dictatorship to democratic governance that yield economic gains to propel Africa's growth and development.

Carlos Lopes is amongst 16 other prominent laureates of the 2014 LAAP which include the President of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan, and former Malian Prime Minister, Cheick Modibo Diarra.

For further reading please go to: [www.uneca.org](http://www.uneca.org)

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Dr. Carlos Lopes was appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as the eighth Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, at the level of UN Under Secretary-General, in September 2012. Dr. Lopes previously served as Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Geneva and Director of the UN System Staff College in Turin at the level of Assistant Secretary-General from March 2007 to August 2012.

Dr. Lopes was appointed UN Assistant-Secretary-General and Director for Political Affairs in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General during the period 2005 to 2007.

# UN Day Celebration at the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA): 24 October 2014

By Seble Demeke

The United Nations around the world celebrates the signing of its Charter in San Francisco on 24 October 1945. The celebration of the 69th anniversary at ECA was marked by the traditional planting of a tree. This year planting ceremony was exceptional as it was devoted to a special tree that survived the bombing of Hiroshima during the Second World War. “These trees, which withstood the atomic bombing, are highly symbolic of life itself” and are known as a symbol of peace around the world. Addis Ababa, the capital and diplomatic city of Africa, where the ECA is situated became the second city in Africa where these trees have been planted while the first one was in South Africa.

During this occasion several remarks were made namely the messages of United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, remarks by the ECA Deputy Executive Secretary Abdalla Hamdok, H.E. Ambassador Kazuhiro Suzuki, a special guest and by Ms. Lulit Zewde, Acting Director-General of the International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs representing the host country. This year’s message of the UN Secretary General depicted the state of the world and reiterated the on-going effort of the UN family in addressing the global current affairs. Speaking



to the meeting Mr. Hamdok stated that the ECA has had Tree Planting Ceremonies in the past as part of our efforts to green and further beautify our complex. Building upon this excellent experience, he further indicated, the event of this day is very special because of the symbolism surrounding the special species of trees that were planted – the Hiroshima Peace trees. H.E. Ambassador Kazuhiro Suzuki made his remarks as indicated below.

Mr. Eugene Owusu, UNDP Ethiopia Resident Representative,  
Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary ECA,  
Ms. Lulit Zewde, Acting Director-General of the International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here at this tree planting ceremony on the occasion of United Nations Day. I wish to thank everyone here for holding this ceremony. I am honoured to witness this Hiroshima sapling, a symbol of peace, being planted in the capital of diplomacy in Africa, Addis Ababa.



H.E. Ambasssador Kazuhiro Suzuki

Planting a tree is more than just beautiful and joyful. In the process of protecting and nurturing a tree, we are able to learn about the preciousness of life, the importance of coexistence with nature, of diversity, and of generosity. It could be said that planting a tree is building peace. We can also be encouraged by the resilience of trees. That is especially true of this tree, whose original tree survived a nuclear devastation and then went on to produce offspring. We need to make sure that those offspring are never subjected to the destruction that their ancestor experienced. So when we gaze upon this tree, let us remember where it came from and

*Continued on page 76*



# Inauguration of the North Office Facility Building at the UNECA compound to host United Nations Agencies

By Seble Demeke

History has been made again in this capital city of Africa, Addis Ababa on 28 October 2014 by the inauguration of the New ECA Office Facility. This addition of more facilities will contribute to the efforts being undertaken by the UN system organizations to deliver as one and makes ECA the third largest UN duty stations after New York and Geneva. Some fifty years ago in 1961 the first Africa Hall where the OAU charter was signed, was inaugurated by H.I.M. Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. This historic building is the very first one which was constructed by the UNECA, followed by its Secretariat Building. This action is being repeated and the New ECA Office Facility is now inaugurated some fifty years later by H.E. Mr. Hailemariam Dessalegn, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The presence of host country representatives, diplomats, heads of agencies and staff of UN system organizations made the event colorful and meaningful with unspoken but understood message of ownership by all. The Facility will house 6 additional UN organizations namely, UNOAU, UNAMID, UNICEF, UNOPS, WHO and the UNHCR representative to AU and ECA.

Statements made during the inauguration by designated speakers, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of ECA are indicated below.



*Clockwise from top: Ribbon cutting ceremony by the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and the Secretary-General of the United Nations; The opening of the curtain of the new office facility; Ato. Firew Tedela, managing director of Rama Construction which constructed the building; The PM of Ethiopia, the SG of the UN, the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, the ES of ECA and the heads of UN Agencies in Addis Ababa*

**Statements made during the inauguration by designated speakers, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Executive Secretary of ECA are available on the staff union website.**  
**[www.uneca.org/staff-union](http://www.uneca.org/staff-union)**

# ECA's Publishing and Distribution Unit wins 2014 UN 21 Award for Efficiency

By Seble Demeke

The annual UN 21 award is a system for honouring outstanding staff initiatives from UN offices around the world. Staff members are invited to submit projects that stand out for their ingenuity, efficiency and excellence in the delivery of the Organization's programmes and services.

Any staff member in the Secretariat can nominate themselves or a team for the UN 21 Award. Managers are invited to encourage staff members to participate and may wish to nominate deserving projects for consideration.

Five categories were identified for the selection of this year's nominees:

- Efficiency
- Innovation
- Outstanding vision
- Service beyond the call of duty
- UN values

Over 75 submissions were received from the UN wide system and the ECA's Publication and Distribution Unit was selected as the winner in the Efficiency category for achieving ISO 14001:2004 certification.

Team spirit and commitment from the Staff in PDS/PDU made this possible. Great moment " says Charles Ndungu , Chief of the Unit who received a certificate, a pin and the UN Charter from United Nations



*The chief of DPU Mr. Charles Ndungu with the SG during the Award Ceremony*

Secretary General Ban Ki Moon in New York on the 24th November.

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**ECA Executive Secretary Mr. Carlos Lopes paid a visit to the staff of the Publishing and Distribution Unit on Monday 24 November 2014 to hand them letters of recognition for winning the UN 21 Award in the efficiency category.**



*The ES with PDS staff when he visited the printshop to congratulate them*



*The ES decorates Charles Ndungu with UN 21 Awards pin*



*Elias Ayalew receives letter of recognition from the ES*



# President of the Republic of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, visits the Africa Hall on Wednesday, 5 November 2014

By Seble Demeke

Upon his arrival, the President was received by Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of ECA. He had a warm and friendly welcome from the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa and United Nations staff. His address took place in the Conference Hall of the historic Africa Hall, where the founding fathers of the Organization of African Unity signed its Charter in May 1963.

The President began by expressing his appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to him and his delegation by the Executive Secretary. Among the members of his delegation was Ireland's Minister of State with responsibility for Overseas Development Assistance, Trade Promotion and North South cooperation, Seán Sherlock.

The Irish delegation's visit would take in three African countries: Ethiopia, Malawi and South Africa. The purpose of these visits, he said, was "to reinforce Ireland's bilateral relations with each of the three countries".

The President stated that Africa and Ireland had a similar history when it came to famine, migration and colonization. The Irish



*The President being received by the ES, ECA*

had struggled for their independence, been through civil war and had had to flee from hunger and famine, so they knew the pain and suffering of being away from their homes. Ireland understood the difficulties and challenges that Africa had been through in the past fifty years or so to obtain freedom from colonization and set up new institutions that would look after the independence and well-being of the continent. He pointed out that "today Africa is at a critical juncture of its development. The discourse has moved on from war and disadvantage to debates about vindicating human rights and the nature of citizenship in culturally diverse settings. As Léopold Sédar Senghor put it, 'Africa is not an idea, it is a knot of realities' – realities that can be shaped in order to deliver human progress and sustainable development".

The President also spoke about, among other things, the positive results of regional economic cooperation for boosting inter-African trade, which would benefit ordinary people. He further pointed out that positive thinking and imagina-

tion could only happen if African Governments "individually, and in concert within the African Union and other forces for regional co-operation, delivered on the aspirations for peace and security of their citizens".

He made it clear that peace and stability would not be achieved on the African continent and globally unless the problem of the millions of men, women and children who had to leave their homes to search for refuge elsewhere was solved. He said that this issue was an "issue that concerns us all, and not just the countries first affected and their immediate neighbours".

To read the President's speech in full, please see: [http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/irish\\_president\\_speech\\_-\\_uneca.pdf](http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/irish_president_speech_-_uneca.pdf).



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# Long-live the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union

By Ambassador Olawale I. Maiyegun, Director for Social Affairs Department African Union Commission (AUC)



At the time of the interview the AUC was in the process of putting together a civil-military medical mission to support the AU Member States and to fill the gaps in the international response to the Ebola Outbreak.

AU has ambassadorial, ministerial and Summit convening power and, in matters of peacekeeping, has demonstrated that it can go into places where the international community is reluctant, using UN support. Cases in point are the current operations in Somalia, Darfur and the Central African Republic. On the economic front, AU has always initiated action which the UN has been quick to support. NEPAD is a good example. Therefore, when we look at the role of the United Nations, it must be seen from the standpoint of partnership. AU is developing its own brand name. We believe that the AU should lead and that the UN should support appropriately. Such partnerships should be forged wherever the AU has comparative advantages because more and more Africans are asking the AU to do more. It is to the mutual advantage of the UN to continue to be a good partner.

Indeed, as a regional commission, ECA itself is giving what the UN can to Africa within the terms of delivering on its mandate, and has been careful not to duplicate efforts with the African Union Com-

mission (AUC). A good example is the Joint Meeting of Ministers of Finance, Economic Development and Planning. Looking back 10 years, what was striking was the challenge to the UN bodies of the principle of “Delivering as One” and this will continue to be so for some time to come due to overlapping mandates.

Therefore, I see the partnership continue in a stronger form which provides AU with a cover under the UN system as the moral authority of the UN Secretary-General is acknowledged and respected. The feedback we get most of the time from the UN organizations is... give us the lead and we will support. UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, OCHA are concrete examples of such successful collabo-

ration. When we initiate action, they work with us by associating and supporting it fully. They use their country offices to effectively deliver. Another good example of such action is the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA), being conducted with the full support of UNFPA since May 2009 when the African Union launched CARMMA to trigger concerted and increased action towards improving maternal and newborn health and survival across the continent. AU decides what it wants to do and secures the full support from its UN partners... an action which also avoids duplication.



*A joint meeting of AU/WHO on Ebola*

What Africa decides, the organizations should follow. In terms of cooperating with the agencies, one cluster that has done well is the social development cluster. It has delivered because we say that UN partners have every stake in the cause and should come support it. The norm should be that AU develops the agenda and the UN agencies come to support it. We are working very well with ECA, for example, in the area of Gender. The point I am trying to make is that we need to come together to serve the people of the continent.

As I mentioned earlier, there is overlapping of mandates in the UN System. While HIV/AIDS is the programme of UNAIDS, every UN agency has an HIV/AIDS unit. That is mere duplication. The fact remains that short of prevention, the aim of the campaign against HIV is to develop a vaccine...

My message is that the UN should continue to be a good partner and that the UN agencies should give assistance and support. Increasingly, the line between social and economic progress is blurred. For instance, virtually all the MDGs are social in nature. Also, there is beginning to be a paradigm shift in the way we perceive peace and security as a precondition for socio-economic development. It is now clear that neither is a precondition for the other and that we need to tackle both simultaneously. Social and economic development should go hand in hand. This must even be applied to post-conflict situations where the rule of law becomes the first casualty of conflict and the social fabric needs to be restored immediately after conflict to prevent another cycle of violence. Because social and economic

development should go hand in hand, this makes ECA's mandate, as it is, even more relevant. ECA is expanding its social development and the cooperation between ECA and AUC on social issues is excellent. Both the AUC and ECA need to focus on human capital development because investment in human capital development is necessarily an investment in economic development.

“ Indeed, as a regional commission, ECA itself is giving what the UN can to Africa within the terms of delivering on its mandate, and has been careful not to duplicate efforts with the African Union Commission (AUC). A good example is the Joint Meeting of Ministers of Finance, Economic Development and Planning. ”

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## United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and Coordinator of the UN Country Team in Ethiopia. Eugene Owusu

*UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the United Nations Charter. It is commemorated around the world, and it is a time to renew our pledge to live up to the founding ideals of the United Nations and to rededicate ourselves to work together for peace, development and human rights.*



*UN Resident Coordinator Eugene Owusu joining the heads of agencies in advocating for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)*

Ethiopia was one of the founding member states to have signed the United Nations Charter. The UN has been working with the people of Ethiopia since then, and today 26 UN agencies, funds, and programs are based in the country, working in every region, to help create a better life for millions of people in an environment where everyone can participate in and benefit from the national development process.

In celebrating this year's United Nations Day, the "UN comes as one" to renew its commitment to support Ethiopia's progress to becoming a middle income country over the next decade. One UN Ethiopia, a self-starter of the Delivering as One initiative, is more than ever well positioned to respond to the country's develop-

“ In celebrating this year's United Nations Day, the “UN comes as one” to renew its commitment to support Ethiopia's progress to becoming a middle income country over the next decade. ”

ment priorities thereby achieving greater effectiveness and efficiency.

On this day we want to highlight that all across Africa, more im-

portantly in Ethiopia, women play major roles in agriculture, trade, services and entrepreneurship, boosting their own and their families' incomes and the development of their communities. Hence, to achieve our development goals in Ethiopia and Africa, all partners must commit to ensuring equality for women. This includes providing women equal pay for equal work; an equal say in the decisions that affect their lives; access to resources and quality education; a life free from violence; and support for a woman's fundamental rights. It is for this reason that the UN Country Team in Ethiopia has chosen the theme “Empower women, empower a nation” for the UN week celebrations.

Partnership –with government institutions, development partners, donors, civil society organizations and the private sector–also continues to be critical to our work and we will keep building on that as a strategic emphasis. Our joint efforts can bring greater impact as no single institution, government or country can do everything by itself.

In many respects, our world today is a far different place than what it was when the UN was founded nearly 70 years ago. But much remains unchanged. The world still needs more peace and security; human rights are not always protected; and for far too many people the dream of a better life remains beyond reach.

As we reflect today on the tremendous achievements this country has registered together with the support of the UN and other partners, let us work together to promote gender equality. Let us work together to ensure a bright future for all Ethiopians.

## The HIV/AIDS African epidemic over time. Hopes and gaps of ending AIDS by 2030

By Dr. Warren Naamara, Country Director, UNAIDS

HIV/AIDS is a relatively newly discovered illness compared to malaria, plague, leprosy, tuberculosis, measles and cholera that have affected vast majorities of humanity over centuries. HIV emerged in the late 20th century. The effects have been more devastating and continue up to date.

Broadly the epidemic could be classified in 10 year phases with contestable data and conclusions in some areas and clarity in others.

**The period 60s to 70s** may be classified by some scholars as the silent or incubating period where there may have been slow passage of the virus and ultimately reaching an exploding level. The origins of the virus have attracted as much complexity and the virus itself. Theories range from the African man getting into contact with apes for transmission to a biological weapon developed by Americans. However a large body of virology evidence points to a mutated (Apes) simian (SIV) virus to the human (HIV) virus one.

**The decade of the 1980s** was the most important one in the whole evolution of the epidemic when a clinical picture or syndrome was first well documented in the USA gay and IVDU communities and later as a sexually transmitted infection of immense proportion in much of Africa. Exchange of body fluids mainly semen, blood and blood products were increasingly

documented as the major vehicle in transmission. The Acquired immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) had been documented and the causative agent Human immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) isolated. In the same period, advances in science were unprecedented from testing capabilities to a host of drug trials. Zidovudine or AZT and other drugs were accepted as treatment choices to keep the virus in check. The global response spear headed by WHO/GPA was unprecedented. Most Countries in East and Central Africa mainly Uganda classified as the epicenter, DRC, Kenya began reporting cases of the clinical picture of AIDS with explosive opportunistic infections not previously seen in clinical practice. Most were able to detect the HIV in blood using the antigen antibody simple tests. A huge epidemic with up to 30% HIV Positive pregnant women with neither treatment nor a vaccine was under way with increasing mortality and no hope! There is no documented bigger advance in all medical science specialties like during this period. The more the science advanced, the more complicated the virus was understood and ironically the less and less was known about the virus.

**The decade of the 90** saw greater advances and more and more global coalitions against the epidemic. Science developed even faster and more anti-retroviral drugs came on the market. More data on the



epidemic become available. By 1995 the world had a total of 1 million reported cases of AIDS and estimated total of 18 million HIV+ adults and 1.5 million HIV+ children. AIDS had become the main cause of death in 25-44 age groups in USA.

Unfortunately the African epidemic had become diffuse with Southern African Countries experiencing high prevalence figures up to 58 per cent. Clearly the Sub-Saharan HIV epidemic was more than any other in the world. In 1993 there were an estimated 9 million people infected in the sub-Saharan region out of a global total of 14 million. In 1998 sub-Saharan Africa was home to 70% of people who became infected with HIV during the year, with an estimated one in seven of the new infections occurring in South Africa. Clearly the epicenter had shifted from central Africa to Southern Africa.

In the same decade the effective combination therapy known as HAART became available for those living with HIV in rich countries. The new drugs were so effective that AIDS death rates in developed countries dropped by 84 per cent over the next four years. Scientists across the globe started thinking that early and aggressive treatment with combination ART regimens

could turn AIDS into chronic, manageable medical conditions like diabetes or hypertension.

Unfortunately the same drug regimens weighing in \$10,000-15,000 per person per year available in the first world were hardly be affordable to African patients and Governments. In macro-economic terms it would have cost sub-Saharan countries between 9 per cent and 67 per cent of their GDP to provide triple combination therapy to everybody living with HIV in their countries. Greatest hopes on the horizon and yet devastating gaps in equity and access.

The fight for survival on treatment for African patients had essentially started with the pharmaceutical companies and treatment would dominate the next decade. **UNAIDS** leveraging the comparative advantages of 10 **UN Agencies** was formed to steer the revamped and intensive global response.

**The 2000s decade and to date** could be classified as a turning period for most patients whom hope was no longer a remote possibility but a reality. Pressure from activists

and African Governments eventually forced pharmaceutical companies to avail ARTs at affordable costs. To quote Kofi Annan former UNSG “ In this effort there is no developed and developing countries, no rich and poor - only a common enemy that knows no frontiers and threatens all people” –

It was no longer just a private sector interest but an obligation as corporate social responsibly and a human rights issue.

WHO/UNAIDS estimated that in 2001 there were more than 20 million people living with AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, but only 8,000 people were accessing drug treatment. There were global uninformed debates about the effectiveness and efficiency of proving drugs to African patients. This debate about was effectively silenced by the WHO 2003 ‘3 by 5’ initiative that managed to substantially increase the number of people on treatment in Africa and raise political support and financial commitment for HIV/AIDS in resource poor countries. Between 2003 and 2005 the number of people receiving treatment for

HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa increased more than eight-fold from 100 000 to 810 000 people. Subsequently the Global Fund and the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), having been formed earlier, were to address the financial gap.

**In the same decade treatment was increasingly accepted as prevention:** Treatment suppresses the viral replication and therefore reduces the overall dose to infect the exposed. This is one of the most important variables in the basic infectious disease epidemiological triad model. The unprecedented advances in the fields of pathophysiology, immune-biology, pharmacology, antiretroviral therapy, pathogenesis of the HIV and clinical care had contributed to progressively turn HIV infection from an inevitably fatal condition into a chronic manageable disease to allow a marked and sustained control of viral replication.

However, the currently used treatments are unable to eradicate HIV from infected individuals and therapy must be lifelong, with the

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potential for short- and long-term, known and unknown side effects and high costs for health care systems. Previously unseen patterns of pathogenic systemic complications involving heart, bone, kidney and other organs are emerging. Large populations of HIV infected individuals not diagnosed, remain untreated or enter treatment at a very late stage of diseases and generally represent an infected reservoir that dynamically increases HIV transmission when conditions are ripe. One such condition is breakage or stoppage of ARV treatment.

**To date a lot has been achieved. More needs to be done in the post 2015 period to ensure long term sustainability. Building on the global and Country achievements, the bottom line is ending AIDS by 2030.**

**“Ending HIV/AIDS....”** Ending AIDS is more than a historic obligation to the 36 million people who have died of the disease. It also represents a momentous opportunity to lay the foundation for a healthier, more just and equitable world will inspire broader global health and development” **Michel Sidibe the UNUSG and executive Director UNAIDS.**

The 2013 **UNAIDS/WHO statistics** indicated an estimated 24.7 million people living with HIV in Sub Saharan African, nearly 71% of the global total of 35 million. Ten countries namely Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe account for 81%. Two countries, Nigeria and South Africa accounted for half of the total number of people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. Women continued to bear the greatest HIV burden with 58% of

the total number of people living with HIV on the continent.

## **New infections declining**

Encouragingly new infections are on the decline with 33 per cent reduction in the number of new infections among all age groups in the Sub Sahara Africa region between 2005 and 2013. However despite the gains in reducing new infections, the region remains the most severely affected with 3 countries, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda representing just under half of the new infections in the region in 2013.

## **Young women and adolescent girls**

are more infected and unfortunately being left behind facing a number of issues that render them vulnerable to HIV infection.

## **Key populations at greater risk of infection**

The sub-Saharan African epidemic also affects key populations – notably sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM) and Injection drug users (IDUs). Sex workers are likely to be 6 times more infected than the general population while limited data on MSM and people who inject drugs has made it difficult for advocacy work.

There is a body of evidence showing that scaling up and scaling out combination prevention of biomedical interventions, ART therapy, HIV testing, PMTCT, condom programming, focussed and targetted BCC programmes, and Voluntary medical male circumcision are the best for maximum returns on investment.

## **Key issues and challenges for the African HIV epidemic and response**

**Addressing adolescent girls and young women:** given the known

vulnerability and overwhelming potential HIV risk and burden in adolescent girls and young women in East and Southern Africa there is a need for a targeted approach that comprehensively addresses their needs and rights.

**Targetting and focussing on the key populations** with user friendly quality and comprehensive package of HIV services, identification and responding to the needs of newly emerging at risk groups such as mobile workers will be an indispensable variable in combination prevention national responses.

**Strengthening efforts to eliminate new infections among children and reducing maternal deaths is low hanging fruit.** Meeting global targets for antiretroviral therapy access among children and pregnant women living with HIV will require expansion of services and integration with the Maternal Nutrition and Child Health (MNCH) in most Countries.

**Increasing, diversifying and sustaining investments is more than a macroeconomic development requirement. It is a human rights obligation** by a region with the highest burden of the AIDS epidemic. Approximately 6.6 billion USD was invested in the AIDS response in Sub Saharan Africa in 2012; the majority (53%) coming from international sources. With ever increasing resource envelop gap, Sub-Saharan Africa countries must be innovative in increasing domestic financing while ensuring efficiency gains. The **UNAIDS** led global strategic vision of **ending AIDS by 2030** dictates a sustained prioritized predictable domestic and international financial investment to avoid a bigger cost of inaction.

## Two major UN achievements for Africa which every African should be proud of

By Firmin Edouard Matoko, Director of UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa



### THE GENERAL HISTORY OF AFRICA (GHA)

In 1964, at the request of and in response to the aspirations of the newly independent African states to decolonize and re-appropriate their history, UNESCO launched an unprecedented task: to tell the history of Africa from an African perspective and to remedy the general ignorance on Africa's history. The challenge was not a simple one: reconstructing Africa's history, freeing it from racial prejudices ensuing from slave trade and colonization, showing the world that many techniques and technologies used nowadays are originated in the continent, proving that the region was constituted by organized societies and not only by tribes... UNESCO called upon the then utmost African and non-African experts. This experts' work represented 35 years of cooperation between more than 350 scientists (historians and other specialists) coordinated by a committee of 39 experts, two thirds of them Africans from the continent and from the Diaspora. The result was the elaboration of the General History of Africa into eight volumes. The nearly ten thousand pages comprising the eight volumes of the GHA Collection, published in English, French and Arabic were completed between the 1980s and the 1990s. This huge task, completed in 1999, had a great impact in Africa and, beyond, within the scientific and academic circles and is considered as a major contribu-

tion to the knowledge of Africa's history and historiography. Given its importance for humanity, the General History of Africa was translated into thirteen languages including three African languages (Kiswahili, Fulfulde and Hausa). In addition, twelve "studies and documents" and twelve volumes on the "Sources of African History" were published to accompany and complement the collection. The GHA is considered as a major contribution to the knowledge of African history and historiography, viewing Africa as whole and rejecting the artificial but widely entrenched dichotomy between North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.

**In pursuing its effort to promote a true knowledge of African History, UNESCO has launched in 2009 the second phase of the project entitled "The Pedagogical Use of the General History of Africa". African Union Member States acknowledging the fact that history education helps to shape peoples' identities and improve understanding of the values and heritage shared by Africans and people of African descent stated is that "The General History published by UNESCO constitutes a valid base for teaching the history of Africa and (we) recommend its dissemination in many languages" (Charter for African Renaissance adopted by the African Union Summit in Khartoum, 2006).**

### *Implementing the right to education for all African citizens*

**"Everyone has the right to education" states the Universal Declaration on Human Rights adopted in 1948. Since then what has been achieved and how effective has been the action of the UN family to guarantee the implementation of this fundamental right in Africa? Over 6 decades after this historic text was adopted, from a pure legal perspective, today, all African countries without exception have integrated the right to education in their national constitutions and laws. This has been largely achieved thanks to the mobilization of UN experts and public campaigns widely operated by UN agencies in their different capacities. Suffice to remind the adoption of a large number of standard-setting instruments - conventions, declarations, recommendations, frameworks for action, charters - elaborated by the United Nations as well as those elaborated at regional level provide a normative framework for the Right to Education among others, the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), the UN International**

Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). These instruments attest to the great importance that African Member States accord to normative action to realize this right.

**On the ground, although the right to education remains an empty promise for millions of children in particular for girls, the results are very encouraging: “Never in African history has so much been achieved in education over such a short period of time and governments are legitimately proud of their achievements. But the gap between the have and have-nots in education still remains too large”.** This is the conclusion of the Sub-Saharan Africa 2012 Education for All Report presented at the Global Education for All Meeting in Paris (France, November 2012). The report is the result of the discussions that took

“Everyone has the right to education” states the Universal Declaration on Human Rights adopted in 1948. Since then what has been achieved and how effective has been the action of the UN family to guarantee the implementation of this fundamental right in Africa?

place during the Africa Education for All Conference from 16-19 October 2012 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Net Enrolment Ratio in primary education has increased from 58 per cent in 1999 to 76 per cent by 2010 and the Gender parity index from 0.85 to 0.93 over the

same period of time. Enrolment in secondary education more than doubled from 20.8 million to 43.7 million to grasp the full significance of the dividends yielded by the Education for All effort across the region within a decade. While the prospects are positive for Universal Primary Education and Gender equality, the challenges are particularly daunting for the remaining four goals, namely early childhood care and education, youth and adult skills, adult literacy and the issue of quality.

Ensuring that all African children without discrimination have equal and free access to education has been the motto of UNESCO’s work in Africa since its creation. *Promoting Gender Equality in education* is a particular challenge that UNESCO has been facing in its work with African countries. UNESCO has supported a great number of educational programmes aiming at ensuring that girls and women are not denied their right to education. One of the most recent programmes being implemented in Africa is the so called “Joint Flagship Programme on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment which was launched in March 2012 to close gender gaps in Ethiopia, promote and protect the rights of women, and institutionalize gender mainstreaming in all sectors”. Here is the testimony of the girls benefiting from the project:

***“We were unable to continue our education and succeed in University life without the economic support provided. We would have been forced to withdraw our education or look for other options like earn and learn which will devastate our future,” some of the girls said during the joint evaluation visit.***



#### An Overview of the General History of Africa

Volume I: *Methodology and African Prehistory*, Editor, J. Ki-Zerbo

Volume II: *Ancient Civilizations of Africa*, Editor, G. Mokhtar

Volume III: *Africa from the Seventh to the Eleventh Century*, Editor, M.M. El Fasi and I. Hrbek

Volume IV: *Africa from the Twelfth to the Sixteenth Century*, Editor, D.T. Niane

Volume V: *Africa from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Century*, Editor, B.A. Ogot

Volume VI: *Africa in the Nineteenth Century until the 1880s*, Editor, J.F.A. Ajayi

Volume VII: *Africa under Colonial Domination 1880-1935*, Editor, A.A. Boahen

Volume VIII: *Africa since 1935*, Editor, A.A. Mazrui and C. Wondji



## Creating a brighter future for Uganda

By Vincent Wierda, Programme Manager for the UNCDF CleanStart initiative

As we look to the 70th anniversary of the UN, our CleanStart programme is part of a new wave of development support in Africa.

Without sustainable energy, the opportunities for people to rise out of poverty are severely limited. CleanStart, a global UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) initiative, aims to support low-income households and micro-entrepreneurs to jump-start their access to clean energy through microfinance. Our goal is to transform the energy-finance market and help millions of people to switch to reliable, modern and affordable energy.

CleanStart is getting under way in Uganda. Around 90% of Ugandans rely on wood, charcoal and kerosene for their household energy needs. Burning these traditional fuels contributes to poor indoor air quality, serious health problems and pollution. Moreover, gathering wood for fuel has depleted the country's forests and woodlands.

More Ugandans are turning to off-grid energy solutions which present multiple benefits. Households can save money due to reduced expenditure on charcoal, kerosene and mobile phone charging. For example, in Uganda the use of solar home systems can cut kerosene costs by almost 80%. Cook stoves which burn fuel more efficiently and with less smoke, bring improvements in health and education, and increase income generation potential.

Yet the upfront cost to buy clean energy technology is a barrier for many, let alone the opportunity to learn about the solutions available. It is also costly and difficult for energy service providers to reach remote communities where the need for decentralized energy is great.

These issues are compounded by the fact many finance institutions are unfamiliar with modern energy systems and reluctant to invest in launching energy micro-loans on a large-scale. As a result, the potential of microfinance to dramatically boost access to sustainable energy in Uganda is underexploited.

UNCDF is partnering with Uganda's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to support at least 40,000 low-income Ugandan households



Ugandan farmer Joshua took out a microloan to buy a solar home system and repays in installments at the time of harvesting Photo: Fred Noy/UNCDF

and micro-entrepreneurs to access reliable and affordable clean energy through microfinance.

First, we link clean energy suppliers with financial institutions so they can learn together. We

*Continued on page 76*



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## Partnerships are key

By WFP

As the world's largest humanitarian agency, WFP helps boost local agricultural development by buying some of its food from smallholder farmers and helping to link them to markets and financial services through our Purchase for Programme (P4P).

More and more food is bought locally nowadays in Africa for WFP humanitarian operations, Ethiopia is a great example. For the people of FugnanBirra in Ethiopia's Oromia region, it made all the difference to know that the grains they received in a recent WFP food distribution were grown in Ethiopian soil.

Around 6,800 people received food assistance from WFP in August in FugnanBirra, a town in the Gursum district. Keddo Hada-Jundi, 50, was one of those who came to the town seeking life-saving supplies to tide her family through the lean season following a poor harvest caused by inadequate rains.

"I have learnt that the maize we received today is locally produced, and I'm really thankful for those who provided assistance to us here in Ethiopia," said Keddo.

WFP has adopted a range of innovative programmes to deliver food assistance while strengthening communities' abilities to withstand cyclical shocks such as drought. As well as providing traditional food rations during emergencies, WFP provides cash or vouchers for training, or for work on assets such as roads and dams as part of its drive to eliminate hunger, and the causes of hunger.



The Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative is a core component of these efforts. In countries like Ethiopia, WFP works with partners and governments to empower smallholder farmers, strengthen local economies and reinforce national self-reliance.

The UN Food and Agriculture

Organization (FAO) estimates that around half of the world's hungry people are from smallholder farming communities, surviving off marginal lands prone to natural disasters like drought or floods. Through the P4P programme, these smallholder farmers also receive training in key techniques such as post-harvest handling, group marketing, agricultural finance and contracting. Smallholder farmers in Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous state, typically tend to less than two hectares, and make up 70 per cent of the country's labour force.

### Ambitious Programme

Ethiopia has one of the most ambitious P4P programmes in the world. One of the biggest deliveries -- almost 19,000 metric tons of maize -- was recently completed by P4P-supported smallholder farmers in 16 cooperative unions.

"I have sold 1,000 kg of maize this year and did not need to walk for one and a half hours as before to reach a market," said Abdallah Dari, who brought his maize on a donkey to the small MedetBoditi Coopera-



*Abdallah proudly added that he was now self-sufficient thanks to the sale of his maize, and he still had enough left over to feed his family*



tive Union in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region (SNNPR).

"Our food assistance is reaching millions of people in Ethiopia every year, and if we can use our purchasing power to make long-term changes to build resilience in Ethiopia, then we will truly be useful here," said Abdou Dieng, Country Director for WFP Ethiopia.

### **Partnerships are key**

The success of P4P deliveries in Ethiopia derives largely from the excellent partnership between all those involved in working towards agricultural transformation, including international donors such as Britain's Department for International Development (DFID), and an Ethiopian bank.

Thanks to a multi-year funding agreement with WFP, DFID is committed to an annual contribution of GBP20 million. This allowed WFP to sign forward delivery contracts with 16 cooperative unions for the 2013 growing season.

"It is quite simple: without the three-year advanced contribution that we got from DFID, we would not have been able to do this," said Abdou Dieng.

Shaun Hughes, head of livelihoods and humanitarian team at DFID Ethiopia, said this kind of funding was more cost-effective.

"It promotes local production and allows WFP to buy food at a better price than in the middle of a drought when prices are at their highest. It also makes sense environmentally as the food is produced nearby," Hughes said.

Banks have also played a critical role. The Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE), WFP and cooperative unions signed an agreement allowing the latter to obtain loans to purchase maize directly from the farmers.

"Not only did this loan allow us to buy maize and increase our sales to WFP from 400 metric tons last year to 2,500 metric tons this year, it also helped to create market access for these farmers and train us about quality and storage (of the grains)," said Kalifa Osseero, manager of the Melik Cooperative Union in Warabie town, in the Silti zone of SNNPR.

ACDI/VOCA, a USAID-funded economic development agency, helped negotiate and draft the contract signed with CBE.

"This is extremely innovative in Ethiopia and the negotiation of the contract will really help in the future," said Alex Pavlovic, a senior public-private partnership specialist for ACDI/VOCA's Agricultural Growth Program-Agribusiness and Market Development in Ethiopia.

"Cooperative unions learnt how to draft these contracts but also how to borrow money for the first delivery of maize, for example, and use the payment for this delivery to make the second round possible, rather than getting all the money at once. It was also a good experience for the bank in its relationship with small cooperative unions," he added.

On 27 August 2013, WFP and its Maize Alliance partners in Ethiopia renewed their agreement and launched an ambitious plan to purchase 40,000 metric tons of maize in 2014.

"The success of local food purchases in Ethiopia also comes from a strong drive from the government. Maize has been identified as one of its key cereals to support Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan, under which productivity of major crops is planned to double. Small-holder farmers are essential to this strategy and the P4P approach fits into this plan for all services including training in post-harvest handling facilities, storage, finance and access to stable markets," said Mauricio Burtet, P4P country coordinator in Ethiopia.

“ Thanks to a multi-year funding agreement with WFP, DFID is committed to an annual contribution of GBP20 million. This allowed WFP to sign forward delivery contracts with 16 cooperative unions for the 2013 growing season. ”

## Journey of WHO in Ethiopia

By Dr Pierre M'Pele-Kilebou, WHO Representative to Ethiopia

The World Health Organization has been the global authority for health for almost 70 years. In 1945, directly after the Second World War, the UN Conference on International Organizations in San Francisco voted to establish a new international health organization and a year later the International Health Conference in New York approved the Constitution of the World Health Organization. The constitution formally came into force on 7 April 1948, which is now celebrated as World Health Day. The First World Health Assembly met in Geneva, Switzerland, in the summer of 1948 and established the WHO, which became the first specialized agency of the United Nations to which every member state subscribed.

WHO's journey in Ethiopia began in 1956 when the first basic agreement concerning technical advisory assistance was signed between the Government of Ethiopia and the WHO, only eight years after the establishment of the Organization. The current basic agreement was signed on 11 January 1962. During the past 58 years, a three-person office has expanded to a team of over 200 staff. A representative, secretary and driver largely managed the first decade of WHO's technical assistance. Later on the growing need and extended mandate have enabled WHO to grow in Ethiopia.

WHO has had a close, excellent relationship with the Ministry of Health throughout its history in Ethiopia. Initially staff was drawn from the Ministry of Health on a part-time basis; this continued until inter-

national and national professional officers were assigned. Moreover, until 1996, WHO was housed within the Ministry of Health. Now, almost 20 years later, WHO has returned back into the Ministry following the establishment of the Direct Technical Assistance Teams – WHO staff deployed to the Ministry of Health, its specialized agencies and the different regions of Ethiopia.

In the beginning WHO's agreement with Ethiopia involved providing technical assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, supplies

and fellowships based on an agreed work plane. The current Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS), which is aligned with WHO's global agreements, the Health Sector Development Plan (HSDP) of Ethiopia and the UNDAF, is the framework for WHO cooperation with the Government of Ethiopia and serves as a tool to guide planning, budgeting and resource allocation for WHO-supported programmes.

I joined the WHO Ethiopia as the Country Representative in January 2013. A large country office and multiple health challenges that the country faces have made my journey with WHO Ethiopia chal-

*Continued on page 76*



From top: WHO Journey, October 2013; A visit by Dr Pierre M'Pele-Kilebou, WHO Representative to Ethiopia at Kule refugee camp, April 201

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## UN support to Africa using ICTs to accelerate socioeconomic development:

By Makane Faye, Chief, Knowledge Services Section (KSS)

ICTs have proven themselves in streamlining and increasing the effectiveness and efficiency in all socio-cultural and economic development fields. The information age characterized by ICTs and the extraordinary increase in the spread of knowledge has given birth to a new era: that of knowledge and information. To benefit from the changes to be brought about by globalization, liberalization and the information age, developed as well as developing countries have put in place strategies that will enable them transform their economies into information and knowledge economies. Dzidonu (2003) argues that ICTs offer to developing countries the possibility “to progress from a situation of ‘zero’ or ‘limited’ technology to widespread adoption of ‘sophisticated’ technologies, without going through the stages of technological adaptation and learning experienced in developed countries.”

### The birth of AISI

While Vice President Al Gore of the United States of America spearheaded development of the Global Information Infrastructure (GII) and the National Information Infrastructure (NII) (Brown, 1994), and the European Union (Bangemann, 1994) commissioned the Bangemann report on “Europe and the Global Information Society”, ECA coordinated the launch of the African Information Society Initiative<sup>1</sup> (AIS), which paved the way for the

development of e-strategies on the continent; “this created a continental impetus to proceed with concrete national ICT endeavours” (Rowan, 2003). Some of the key components of AISI are Policy Reform, Infrastructure, Applications and Community access (Wild & Sibthorpe, 1999). AISI has recommended guidelines for the development of national ICT policies and strategies, which are seen as a concrete contribution of the United Nations in African socio-economic development. Moreover, ECA and its partners<sup>2</sup>, including other UN institutions such as UNDP, ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and the World Bank made available massive intellectual assistance to African countries in terms of development of ICT policies (UNECA, 2008).

### Benefits for African countries

In the global networked economy, information and knowledge have become strategic resources, upon which governments, private sector corporations and the public at large make their decisions. Almost all the African countries managed to develop their e-strategies using or influenced by the AISI framework with the support of the United Nations. In this context, a set of comprehensive national e-strategies, sectoral e-strategies and sub-regional frameworks (UNECA, 2008), was developed in favor of African countries, the fruits

of which are being ripped today by the African population.

The availability of accurate and up-to-date information and knowledge, has decisive impact on peoples’ lives and on the socio-economic development of a country as a whole. The world has become a planetary village in which countries that have created an enabling ICT environment are experiencing revolutionary effects, especially in the governance, education, health and business sectors. Most of the e-strategies in African countries have focused on the above sectors; citizens are more empowered, can change the equilibrium of power and start making informed choices and creating opportunities that impact positively on their future.

### Salient successes

Through the support of the United Nations, the African ICT for Development landscape has positively changed and can be summarized as follows:

- In 2013, forty-six countries have finalized their e-strategies, while one was in the development process.
- With an enabling environment for competition and ICT investment available in most countries, Africa’s mobile and Internet growth rates are the highest in the world.
- Mobile phone penetration has grown from 1% in 2000 to 54% in 2012. As a result, Africa has also lead innovation in mobile banking. According to the GSMA 2013 report<sup>3</sup>, Mobile contributed over six per cent of the region’s GDP, higher than any other comparable region globally. The mobile ecosystem directly supported 3.3 million

<sup>1</sup> AISI was launched by the African Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic

<sup>2</sup> The UN was supported among others by Finland, Sweden, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), the European Union (EU), the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), USAID

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.gsma.com/newsroom/sub-saharan-africa-leads-world/> (Accessed 24 August 2014)

jobs and contributed US \$21 billion to public funding in the region, including license fees. By 2020, mobile is set to double its economic effect, employing 6.6 million people in the region and contributing US \$42 billion to public funding.

- Fixed lines currently reach over 4% of the population. This has surpassed the NEPAD target of doubling teledensity to two lines per 100 people by 2005.
- The number of Internet users on the continent grew over seven times the global average, clocking more than 4,000% growth between 2000 and 2014, to over 268 million<sup>4</sup> users.
- All countries, except two, are connected to submarine fiber optic cables, connecting Africa to the rest of the world. These cables have dramatically increased the transmission capacity of data and drastically reduced transmission time and costs (Macharia, 2014). Prior to fiber-optic installation, internet service providers relied on satellite connections, paying up to \$2,300 per month for basic satellite connections. Using fiber-optic cables, they can now



<sup>4</sup> <http://www.internetlivestats.com/internet-users/#byregion> (Accessed 24 August 2014)



get the same connection for less than \$100.

- ICTs are assisting in solving cross-border issues resulting to the Adoption by the African Union Heads of State in June 2014 of the Convention on Cyber-Security and Personal Data Protection to provide legislation and guidance on the organization of electronic transactions, protection of personal data, promotion of cyber security, e-governance and combating cyber crime in all member States.

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### ECA milestone achievements

By Capacity Development Division

Thanks to the Economic Commission for Africa operating in its dual role as a pan-African institution and a United Nations body, has significantly fulfilled its mandate of promoting social and economic development in Africa through conducting relevant research and policy analysis and most importantly, building human, institutional and infrastructural capacity throughout the continent. This is demonstrated by the ECA's significant involvement in the establishment institution like the African Development Bank, the New Partnership for Africa's Development programme and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) among others. Support given to the development of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, was historical, as was the support given towards the attainment of the MDG Goals. Recently, the ECA support of the development of a pan African culture of ownership of development goals has been witnessed in the collaborative and consultative processes used in the development of the Africa owned Post 2015 Agenda and Agenda 2063 which are successor programmes to the MDGs and other development goals.

Thanks to the UN, the recent restructuring of ECA, demonstrates the wish of the UN to translate regional level visions and programmes to concrete results for the benefit of African populations through strengthened coordination at the sub-regional, and national levels. The Regional Coordination Mechanism of UN Organizations and Agencies working in Africa in support of the AU and its NEPAD Programme has

seen to the existence of coordination mechanisms in all sub-regions, strengthening coordination capacity in programming, monitoring and evaluation, and resource mobilization, for ensuring the realization of Africa's transformation agenda. Through its capacity building and technical assistance activities, the ECA has also assisted its member states, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other major organizations (regional and sub-regional) to develop for designing and implementing several development policies. Such policies which range from regional to local have also been successfully implemented due to the tenacity of the UN in delivering Africa's economic growth.

Thanks to the UN, Africa is taking bold steps towards gaining control of its own resources and financing its own development. With the support of the ECA, the continent is moving towards stamping out illicit financial flows and harnessing its natural resources and human capital for its transformation. The recognition that Africa is not resource poor is a significant outcome and driving the new development Agenda will be a test the application of the well researched findings. The ECA has supported Africa in numerous international negotiations across a wide range of sectors while also using this convening power to help give credence to Africa's voice in the international arena.

With over 50 years' worth of contributions to Africa's economic development while defending the ideals of Pan Africanism, the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) has

“ Recently, the ECA support of the development of a pan African culture of ownership of development goals has been witnessed in the collaborative and consultative processes used in the development of the Africa owned Post 2015 Agenda and Agenda 2063 which are successor programmes to the MDGs and other development goals. ”

helped deliver the positive ideals of the United Nations in Africa. Thanks to the UN, the culture of independent thinking is a widely and rapidly growing concept not just at the ECA headquarters, but continentally also. Operating in its dual role as a pan-African institution and a United Nations body, the ECA has significantly fulfilled its mandate by conducting relevant research and policy analysis and most importantly, providing direct technical assistance towards building human, institutional and infrastructural capacity throughout the continent. This can clearly be seen in the ECA's significant involvement in the institution of the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) among others.



## What has the United Nations done for Africa in terms of health?

By Dr. Grace Fombad, Chief Medical Officer, UN Health Care Center (UNHCC)

A proper response to this question or puzzle will require that we examine the different arms of the UN. Health as defined by WHO in the Alma-Ata Declaration in 1978 as a complete state of physical, mental and social well-being and not just the absence of disease or illness. The Declaration continued to delineate the rights of individuals to actively take part in planning for their health either individually or collectively, giving birth to a discipline in healthcare called primary health care. This also underlined the initial goal of health for all by the year 2000 in a serene environment free of conflict.

Looking back to the above milestone in the history of the UN, one can comfortably say the organization has work through WHO to respond to the different health crisis facing the world but more specifically Africa. In 2003 WHO launched the 3 million people on antiretroviral therapy by the year 2005. Although only 1.3 million people attained that goal, it created room for a more ambitious goal to scale up access to HIV treatment. UNICEF and UNAIDS have worked hand in gloves with WHO to ensure that the poorest countries in Africa have access to HIV treatment.

The different pandemics and presently the Ebola outbreak in West Africa are some areas to appreciate how the UN has responded to the needs of the continent.

Working in child protection, UNICEF ensures that the African child is surrounded with love and issues of sexual abuse that may result in reproductive health related problems and mental health are reduced. Ensuring good nutrition and reduction of maternal mortality during child birth including infant mortality are all areas that the UN through these different arms have touched the lived of Africans in the area of health.

As a UN employee, the health benefits of the organization are recognized through the compulsory insurance scheme. It has opened the eyes of many in Africa to understand the benefits of saving for the rainy day and this cannot be denied that some staff members are alive today because of the possibilities to get access to the most complicated medical

procedures offered under insurance coverage.

Although it is not the responsibility of the UN to dictate to individual governments on how to run their countries, there is need to do more by insisting that their policies include moving from primary health care to providing standard facilities for optimal care to their citizens and avoid the consistent drainage of the meager resources in search of treatment abroad. Investing in the training of health-care personnel is not a luxury but an obligation.

Like *Oliver Twist*, Africa still needs more to be done for the health of the citizens through the application of good governance through the assistance of the UN. Good governance will enable planners to put in place the necessary infrastructures to take care of the well-being of the people without discrimination on socio-economic status. Africa is still heavily affected by HIV and the sponsorship of the treatment program should go beyond 2015, the target year to get 15 million people on the drugs.



First Aid training programme of UNHCC

## The UN: Over 50 years of concrete results to support the development of West Africa

The UN and the ECA, its technical arm in Africa, have been heavily involved in the socio-economic development of West Africa throughout these last 70 years since they began. The following outlines how the UN had responded to numerous issues in the area of development assistance and regional integration as well as in the maintenance and consolidation of peace in the sub-region.

### (1) Dynamic support for economic integration, development and infrastructures

To facilitate economic and social integration of the continent, the UN-ECA has played a preponderant role for the Organization of African Unity today the African Union, in setting up and strengthening the capacities of the Regional Economic Communities and especially the ECOWAS.

This assistance was extended to the transportation sector where, with a view to assisting African countries to establish good policies in this area in order to reduce poverty and the shortcomings in this sector, in 1987 the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the World Bank created the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Programme (SSATP). In West Africa, this programme made it possible to finance many studies and training sessions as well as tools for communication and dissemination of knowledge as well as support for sub-regional institutions, including the ECOWAS. Along the same lines, the ECA contributed to the identification of the main trunk roads for African integration, including three in West

Africa. It also supported the sub-region in setting up an “open skies” policy concept for air transport.

More recently in the framework of its support for the NEPAD-AU, the ECA is supporting West Africa through the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). The PIDA identified investment priorities and financing opportunities for corridors of electrical transmission, transportation and new technologies of information and communications (NTICs).

In the framework of the promotion of the NTICs, the ECA has played a leading role in West Africa. Thus, through the African Information Society Initiative (AISII), it finances the process of drafting and implementing national policies and plans relating to national information and communications infrastructure, called NICI Plans, for the benefit of thirteen countries in West Africa, which are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea,

The ECA, in its efforts to promote statistics, supports the Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT) in the development of thinking on the importance and use of statistical data to stimulate development

### Infrastructure



Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Senegal. These plans have made it possible to promote the convergence of national policies on telecommunications, information technology and the media.

in West Africa. It also supported the drafting of the Strategic Regional Framework of Reference for strengthening statistical capacities with a view to inspiring an improved understanding of the role of statistics, to improve their quality and to favor their increased use for sustainable development.

Since its creation in 1962, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) has benefited from significant financial support on the part of the United Nations and particularly the UNECA. At the heart of the IDEP mission is capacity strengthening and training, in order to provide African states with qualified human resources. To this end, the Institute has provided training and capacity-strengthening for hundreds of senior executives in West Africa through short and long courses.

## **(2) Constant support to institutions working on climate change and food security**

The Sahelian subregion attracted the attention of the international community by its great droughts, beginning in the 1970s and 1980s. Climatic variations continue to weigh heavily on agriculture that is 90 per cent rain-fed. Thus, to mitigate the unpredictable climatic conditions and the vulnerability that accompanies them, in 1987, the ECA Conference of Ministers, in collaboration with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) created the African Center for Meteorological Applications for Development (AC-MAD), the headquarters of which is located in Niamey, Niger.

This objective of this Center is to contribute to the sustainable development of different socio-economic sectors by transforming the weather,

the climate and the environment into resources for the sustainable development of Africa. The Center also contributes to strengthening the capacities of States in climate forecasting and in the processing and dissemination of meteorological and climatic information for sustainable development.

In connection with these efforts related to climate change, since 2012 the West African Development Bank (BOAD), a common financing organization for priority actions for development and economic integration of the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, has set up a regional collaboration center on the problems of the environment. The centre provides direct support to governments, non-governmental organizations and to the private sector in the identification and development of projects eligible for the Clean Development Mechanism in Africa.

In the framework of the integrated management of water resources and the improvement of the living conditions of people residing around water bodies, in 2000, the ECA conducted a study on the development of the water resources of trans-boundary river/lake basins in Africa. In West Africa, this study involved the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) and the Senegal River Development Organization (OMVS). ECA also contributed to the creation of the Liptako Gourma Authority (LGA) based in Ouagadougou. The Commission identified the measures that made it possible to mobilize financial resources and to improve agricultural production and electrical energy, to promote mineral resources, transportation, communications and health within these river basins.

## **(3) The contribution of the UN to efforts to maintain and consolidate peace helped to avoid the general conflagration of countries at war**

**At the beginning of the nineties, West Africa experienced interstate conflicts with devastating effects for society, the state and regional stability.** The past and recent history of the sub-region has been characterized by instability and conflicts which have affected a certain number of countries, particularly Mali, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Guinea-Bissau and Guinea Conakry, with a significant socio-economic impact.

Faced with these new challenges, the sub-region mobilized, particularly in the framework of the **Economic Community of West African States, which played a leading role in all the efforts to seek solutions to these conflicts.** Thus it benefited from strong support from the UN through major operations and missions for the maintenance of and support for peace, the mandates of which ranged from traditional methods of peaceful settlement of differences, such as reconciliation and assistance with the implementation of peace agreements or mediation and good offices, to more coercive interventions including a selection of measures such as the use of force under the provisions of the United Nations Charter.

The most well-known cases include the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and the United Nations Operations in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) created for the Security Council to replace the support missions led by the ECOWAS and the AU in these two countries. The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was



created by the Security Council in 2003 to support the implementation of the ceasefire agreement and the peace process and the reform of the security sector after the second civil war in Liberia, while the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) was launched in September 1993 to provide their good offices in support of efforts deployed by the ECOWAS and the national transition government in favor of the implementation of the peace agreements. The UNOMIL was replaced in 1997 by the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Liberia (UNOL).

The United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) was created on October 21, 1999, to replace the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) in order to facilitate the application of the Lomé peace agreement and to assist with the disarmament, demobilization and reinsertion of former combatants. It completed its mandate in December 2005 and was replaced by the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL).

The UN also played an active role in the creation of the military ECOWAS Ceasefire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in 1990. To better support these peace efforts, in 2002 the UN decided to establish the Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa (UNOWA) in Dakar.

The efforts of the UN have contributed greatly to peaceful political transitions in Guinea-Bissau, to holding peaceful and transparent elections in Liberia and Sierra Leone, with widely accepted results, as well as to the re-establishment of the rule of law and to launching post-conflict reconstruction in other countries.

The prospects are to continue to support the engagement of the sub-region to deal with the scourge of transnational organized crime, including drug trafficking, piracy and other crimes at sea, as well as growing terrorist activities, which constitute new threats to peace and security.

#### **(4) Towards improved coordination of the actions of UN programmes and agencies to better serve West Africa**

In this area we should underline the initiative to set up the Forum of Inter-Governmental Organiza-

tions which began in June 2013 in order to rationalize operations in the framework of a common regional development programme. For the outlook, it is undeniable that better coordination of the agencies and programmes of the United Nations System in order to take advantage of technical skills and create new synergies to support the sub-region will be a value-added in the future. This is why the operationalization of the Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism will enable it to develop into a major asset for the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of the actions of the UN in support of the ECOWAS.

### **Food and Agriculture**



*Pictures provided by Ingoila Mounkaila Communications Officer Bureau sous régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique*

## L'ONU : Plus de cinquante ans de réalisations concrètes pour soutenir le développement de l'Afrique de l'Ouest

Ingoila Mounkaila Communications Officer: Bureau sous régional pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest

L'ONU et la CEA, son bras technique en Afrique, ont été très engagées dans le développement socioéconomique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest tout au long de ces 70 années d'existence de l'Organisation. C'est ainsi que l'ONU a répondu à plusieurs questions aussi bien dans le domaine de l'accompagnement du développement, de l'intégration régionale que celui de maintien et de consolidation de la paix dans la sous région.

### (1) Dynamique appui à l'intégration économique, au développement et aux infrastructures

Pour faciliter l'intégration économique et sociale du continent, la CEA a joué un rôle prépondérant auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies devenue aujourd'hui l'Union Africaine pour la mise en place et le renforcement des capacités des Communautés Economiques Régionales et en particulier de la CEDEAO.

Cet accompagnement s'est poursuivi dans le domaine de transport où, en vue d'aider les pays africains à établir de bonnes politiques en la matière afin de réduire la pauvreté et les déficiences dans le secteur, la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique et la Banque mondiale ont créé en 1987, le Programme des Politiques de Transport en Afrique Subsahar-

ienne (Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Policy Program (SSATP)). En Afrique de l'Ouest, Ce Programme a permis de financer de nombreuses études et formations ainsi que des outils de communication et de diffusion des connaissances sans oublier l'appui aux institutions sous-régionales dont la CEDEAO. Dans le même ordre d'idée, la CEA a contribué à l'identification des grands axes routiers d'intégration de l'Afrique dont trois en Afrique de l'Ouest. Elle a également soutenu la sous-région dans la mise en place d'un concept de « ciel ouvert » en matière de transport aérien.

Plus récemment dans le cadre de son appui au NEPAD-UA, la CEA est en train de soutenir l'Afrique de l'Ouest à travers le Programme de Développement des Infrastructures en Afrique (PIDA). Le PIDA a identifié les priorités d'investissement et les opportunités de financements en matière de corridors de transmission électrique, transport et Nouvelles Technologies de l'Information et de la communication (NTIC).

Dans le cadre de la promotion des NTIC, la CEA, a joué un rôle de premier plan en Afrique de l'Ouest. Ainsi à travers l'Initiative sur la Société Africaine à l'ère de l'Information (AIS), elle a financé le processus d'élaboration et de mise en œuvre des poli-

tiques et plans nationaux relatifs à l'infrastructure en matière d'information et de communication, appelés Plans NICI, au profit de treize pays de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, à savoir : Benin, Burkina Faso, Cap-Vert, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambie, Ghana, Guinée, Mali, Mauritanie, Niger, Nigeria, Sénégal et Sierra Leone. Ces plans ont permis de promouvoir la convergence des politiques nationales des télécommunications, d'informatique et des médias.

La CEA, dans ses efforts de promotion des Statistiques, appuie l'Observatoire Economique et Statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne (Afristat) dans le développement de la réflexion sur l'importance et l'utilisation des données statistiques pour impulser le développement en Afrique de l'Ouest. Elle a aussi soutenu l'élaboration du Cadre Stratégique Régional de Référence pour le renforcement des capacités statistiques en vue de susciter une meilleure prise de conscience du rôle de la statistique, d'en améliorer la qualité et en favoriser une utilisation accrue pour des besoins de développement durable.

L'Institut Africain de Développement et de la Planification (IDEP) a depuis sa création en 1962 bénéficié d'un fort soutien financier de la part des Nations Unies et de la CEA. Au cœur de la mission de l'IDEP figurent le renforcement des capacités et la formation, en vue de doter les Etats africains des ressources humaines qualifiées. Dans cette optique, l'Institut a formé et renforcé les capacités des centaines de cadres supérieurs de l'Afrique de l'Ouest à travers des cours de courte et de longue durée.

### **(2) Soutiens constants aux institutions s'occupant du changement climatique et de l'insécurité alimentaire**

La sous-région sahélienne a suscité l'attention de la communauté internationale par les grandes sécheresses qu'elle a connues au début des années 1970 et 1980. Les variations climatiques continuent de peser fortement sur une agriculture à plus de 90% pluviale. Ainsi, pour pallier à l'imprévisibilité des conditions climatiques et la vulnérabilité qui les accompagne, la Conférence des Ministres de la CEA, en collaboration avec l'Organisation Météorologique Mondiale, a créé, depuis 1987, le Centre Africain pour les Applications de la Météorologie au Développement (ACMAD), dont le siège est à Niamey, au Niger.

Ce Centre a pour objectif de contribuer au développement durable des différents secteurs socio-économiques en faisant du temps, du climat et de l'environnement des ressources pour le développement durable de l'Afrique. Il contribue aussi à renforcer les capacités des Etats dans la prévision climatique et procède au traitement et à la diffusion d'informations météorologiques et climatiques pour les besoins du développement durable.

Dans le cadre de ces efforts liés au changement climatique, la Banque Ouest-Africaine de Développement (BOAD), organisme commun de financement d'actions prioritaires de développement et d'intégration économique de l'UEMOA, et la Convention Cadre des Nations Unies pour les Changements Climatiques (CCNUCC) ont mis en place depuis 2012 un centre de collaboration

régionale (CCR) sur la problématique environnementale. Le CCR apporte un soutien direct aux gouvernements, aux organisations non gouvernementales et au secteur privé dans l'identification et le développement des projets éligibles au Mécanisme du Développement Propre (MDP) en Afrique.

Dans le cadre la gestion intégrée des ressources en eaux et l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations riveraines des cours d'eau, la CEA a conduit une étude pour la mise en valeur des Bassins fluviaux lacustres transfrontaliers en Afrique. En Afrique de l'Ouest, cette étude a porté sur l'Autorité du Bassin du Niger (ABN) et l'Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Sénégal (OMVS). La CEA a également contribué à la création de l'Autorité du Liptako Gourma (ALG) à Ouagadougou. La Commission a identifié des mesures ayant permis de mobiliser des ressources financières et d'améliorer les productions agricoles et d'énergie électrique, de promouvoir les ressources minérales, le transport et communications et la santé au sein de ces bassins fluviaux.

### **(3) La Contribution de l'ONU aux efforts de maintien et de consolidation de la paix a évité l'embrasement des pays en guerre**

Dès le début des années 90, l'Afrique de l'Ouest est en proie à des conflits intra-étatiques aux effets dévastateurs pour la société, l'Etat et la stabilité régionale. L'histoire passée et récente de

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la sous région a été caractérisée par l'instabilité et les conflits qui ont affecté un certain nombre de pays notamment le Mali, le Liberia, la Sierra Leone, la Côte d'Ivoire, le Togo, la Guinée-Bissau et la Guinée Conakry, avec un impact socio-économique important.

Face à ces défis inédits, la sous-région s'est mobilisée notamment dans le cadre de la **Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO), qui a joué un rôle moteur dans tous les efforts de recherche de solutions à ces conflits**. C'est ainsi qu'elle a bénéficié d'un fort soutien de l'ONU à travers d'importantes opérations et missions de maintien et de soutien à la paix qui ont eu des mandats allant des méthodes traditionnelles de règlement pacifique des différends, telles que la promotion de la réconciliation, l'aide apportée à la mise en œuvre des accords de paix, où la médiation et les bons offices, aux interventions plus coercitives comprenant toute une gamme de mesures y compris l'emploi de la force en vertu de la Charte.

Les cas les plus connus incluent la Mission multidimensionnelle intégrée des Nations Unies pour la stabilisation du Mali (MINUSMA) et l'opération des Nations Unies en Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) créées par le Conseil de sécurité pour remplacer les Missions de soutien sous la conduite de la CEDEAO et de l'UA dans ces deux pays. La Mission des Nations Unies au Libéria (MINUL) a, quant à elle, été créée par le Conseil de sécurité en 2003 pour soutenir la mise en œuvre de l'accord de cessez-le-feu et le processus de paix et appuyer la réforme du secteur de sécurité à l'issue de la deuxième guerre civile au Libéria alors que la Mission

d'Observation des Nations Unies au Libéria (MONUL) a été lancée en septembre 1993 pour exercer de bons offices à l'appui des efforts déployés par la CEDEAO et le Gouvernement national de transition en faveur de la mise en œuvre des accords de paix. La MONUL a été remplacée en 1997 par le Bureau des Nations Unies pour la consolidation de la paix au Libéria (BUNUL).

La Mission des Nations Unies en Sierra Leone (MINUSIL) a été créée le 21 octobre 1999, en remplacement de la Mission d'observation des Nations Unies en Sierra Leone (MONUSIL) pour faciliter l'application de l'accord de paix de Lomé et aider dans le désarmement, la démobilisation et la réinsertion des anciens combattants. Elle a achevé son mandat en décembre 2005 et a été remplacée le Bureau intégré des Nations Unies en Sierra Leone (BINUSIL).

L'ONU a aussi joué un rôle actif dans la création du Groupe d'observateurs militaires de la CEDEAO (ECOMOG) en 1990. Pour mieux soutenir ces efforts de paix, l'ONU a décidé en 2002 d'établir le Bureau du Représentant Spécial du Secrétaire général pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest (UN-OWA) à Dakar.

Les efforts de l'ONU ont contribué à des transitions politiques apaisées en Guinée-Bissau, à la tenue d'élections pacifiques et transparentes au résultat largement accepté au Liberia et en Sierra Leone ainsi qu'au rétablissement de la règle de la loi et le lancement de la reconstruction post-conflits dans d'autres pays.

Comme perspectives, Il est important de continuer à appuyer

l'engagement de la sous-région pour faire face au fléau de la criminalité transnationale organisée, dont le trafic de drogue, la piraterie et la criminalité en mer, ainsi que les activités terroristes croissantes, en tant que nouvelles menaces à la paix et la sécurité.

### **Pour une meilleure coordination des actions des programmes et agences de l'ONU pour mieux servir l'Afrique de l'Ouest**

A ce niveau, il y a lieu de souligner l'Initiative portant sur la mise en place du Forum des Organisations Intergouvernementales qui a vu le jour en juin 2013 en vue de rationaliser les interventions dans le cadre d'un programme commun de développement régional. Comme perspectives, il est indéniable de noter qu'une meilleure coordination des agences et programmes du système des Nations Unies pour exploiter davantage les compétences techniques et créer de nouvelles synergies dans l'appui à la sous région sera une plus value importante dans le futur. C'est pourquoi, Opérationnaliser le Mécanisme Sous-Régional de Coordination devient un atout majeur à l'efficacité, l'efficience et l'impact de l'action de l'ONU dans son appui à la CEDEAO.

## Thinking it first for Africa: A letter from Molakisi to Mwalimu

Letter transcribed by Abel Akara Ticha,  
Communications Officer ECA/SRO-CA

Ndenge Nini Mwalimu na ngai ?

I know you are probably saying:  
“Hakuna Matata, my friend!”

Yes, there's no wahala this way too, Mwalimu; just to set a few things straight after we got cut-off our Google hangout yesterday, due to bandwidth issues here. Well, guess we shall soon be on our way to broadband, if our Makossa buddies go fast on linking my duty station in Yaounde to their fibre optic network especially as they just acquired the WACS sea-cable landing point in Limbe on the country's West coast. You remember our cry at ECA for Africa to use ICTs as a good place to start in leapfrogging certain stages in its development? Broadband would be no mean marker on this route. And we have been doing much concretely on this thematic. You can Google innovation prize for Africa and check. Anyways, let's save this ICT palaver for another day.

Whilst on the hangout yesterday, you kept poking me about how puffy my jaws had grown and how protruded my tummy was becoming due to my sitting all day, swivelling at my desk and either paging through those heavy reports of ours or adding stats and literature to a draft volume which you think will never help Africa concretely. I remember you asked me: “When the UN turns 70 in 2015, what concretely will you have to show as your contribution to the development of our continent especially in

that sub-region of yours where all that seem to matter 24/7 are Palapala by Manie Bella and Original by Fally Ipupa?”

Well, I tell you this: For starters, all work without play makes Jacqueline dull and Jack stupid, to say the least. So allow us dance to those beats when we can (BTW, I enclose “original” videos of both songs for

your palapalic enjoyment!). And come to think of it, can you ever do it, without thinking it? How do you think Africa would use its hammer, nail, chisel and plainer without first doing the math on the furniture in sight? Think, Mwalimu! Think! You see why we are resolved to thinking and rethinking it before showing it to our leaders across the continent? That's how ECA has been steadily refining the architecture behind what will eventually be Africa's ultimate engineering works.

As you and I make a mix of Lingala and Ki-Swahili whenever we chat, don't you see we understand each other better and can operate



Cameroon's Economy Minister (third from left) pays keen attention to a briefing related to ECA policy advisories, during a COPIL meeting in Yaounde



Time to remember: COPIL meeting in Yaounde; in the front row are five Cameroonian ministers, the Vice-President of the CEMAC Commission (woman in front) and top officials from ECCAS, ECA and other partners



with more ease to bind our several nations together as one big African Economic Community? Have you been deaf to our agenda-setting on regional integration? Or you think we must shout it from the roof tops that we continuously give a prod to Africa on the great things it can achieve with regional integration? This is what SADC, EAC and COMESA are trying to achieve with their Tripartite Free Trade Area taking shape. We have been encouraging ECCAS and ECOWAS to build such a bridge. At least, here in Central Africa, a Steering Com-

mittee for the Rationalisation of the Programmes and Instruments of the sub-region's Economic Communities (known for short as COPIL) is working. We know these things take time, so we regularly ring the alarm for the stakeholders.

Mwalimu, I could go on and on about how we are changing the mindsets of leaders in Africa in general and Central Africa in particular especially on integration but I know you are rushing to check things out in the refugee camp under your supervision. It's a

good thing to provide relief when needed – I guess people can see that clearly! But it's even a better thing to develop the social and economic models that will preempt such humanitarian crisis in the long run. That's the work of our architects, so let me continue paging and drafting. You'll soon see how all of these come together with our calls for structural transformation in Africa. Patience, Mwalimu, patience!

Tikala malamau for now.

Your buddy, Mopao Molakisi – the great teacher!



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## Literature resources on Ebola

The ECA Knowledge and Library Services has recently published a libguide on the topical concern of Ebola. A libguide is an electronic document which provides research assistance on a subject of exploratory interest. This particular libguide not only reflects the voice of the ECA Executive Secretary, Carlos Lopes on the topic but also presents the voice of the wider Ebola Response effort being coordinated by the United Nations.

The first page, titled Ebola Virus is the landing spot, and it pulls together multiple sources of information

on the crisis – immediately there is a map, a daily casualty count and scholarly content on the virus. The Ebola: How to... page provides advice, guidance and resources on how to know, prevent, help and respond to the issue. What the world is saying about Ebola provides links to Youtube videos and twitter feeds on the impact of and response to Ebola and finally Sources of News on Ebola provide the most up-to-date newsfeeds from Reuters, BBC News and Podcasts, CNN, AllAfrica, UNNews press releases, NPR, Relief Web and the Guardian.

This libguide juxtaposes a variety of scholarly sources, website, op-eds and up-to-date information taken from twitter and a variety of news feeds on this issue which concerns not only Africa but the world. Instead of having to go to multiple sites to get current news, multimedia, pictures, videos, articles and social responses to the Ebola response, the ECA Library has made it easy for you to just go to one spot at: <http://libguides.uneca.org/ebola>. Let us know what you think at [lib-service@uneca.org](mailto:lib-service@uneca.org).

*Up-to-date information on Ebola / Informations à jour sur le virus Ebola @ [http://libguides.uneca.org/eca\\_ebola](http://libguides.uneca.org/eca_ebola)*

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Mr. Bambis, a Greek national, came to Ethiopia in 1952 at age 20. He is still serving the community providing nationally and internationally produced goods.

## Thank you, President Barack Obama, for taking immediate action on Ebola

By Seble Demeke

2014 will be remembered as one of the most difficult years for Africans because of the challenge brought about by the Ebola epidemic, which is looming over the continent. At a time when Africa is doing all it can to lift itself out of poverty and achieve middle-income status, the shadow of death is spreading over it, threatening to move slowly but surely from one country to the next unless immediate action is taken by all.

In this regard, a big thank you goes to President Barack Obama, who took concrete and immediate action by sending 4,000 US military men and women to affected countries and allocating \$500 million dollars to help African countries to contain the spread of the virus.

Once again, the United States of America has taken the lead in tackling a major crisis facing Africa. Former president George W. Bush visited Africa several times during his presidency. During one of his visits to Southern Africa, he became aware of the devastating impact that the HIV/AIDS epidemic was having, and immediately allocated \$15 billion to fight the epidemic globally through the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. As a result, the number of Africans receiving antiretroviral therapy increased from 50,000 in 2004, when the initiative began, to at least 1.2 million in early 2008. This contributed tremendously to



*United States of America President Barack Obama holds a meeting with cabinet agencies coordinating Government Ebola response at the White House on 15 October 2014. Photo by Kevin Lamarque/Reuters*

Governments' efforts and resulted in the production of antiretroviral drugs that helped to vastly improve the quality of life of HIV/AIDS patients and control mother-to-child transmission.

Today, Africa is faced with yet another epidemic, another crisis that requires coordinated effort by the global community. Unfortunately, however, the world has adopted a "wait and see" approach. Before long, just as with HIV/AIDS, the situation will get worse and require urgent global attention, which will cost much more in terms of human and financial resources – resources that could have been better used for development purposes. The World Health Organization first drew the attention of Governments to the issue way back in 1976, when the first Ebola outbreak was identified. If the global scientific community had come together to come up with a vaccine immediately after that tragic event, we might have avoided the situation we are faced with today.

It is also surprising to note that the giants of world news broadcasting, such as BBC, CNN and Al Jazeera, and even some African media out-

lets, are not giving enough attention to the Ebola crisis in Africa. Ebola has killed thousands of Africans and infected many more within a very short space of time since the outbreak was officially recognized by the affected countries. It seems that the media are waiting to see deaths in the hundreds of thousands before drawing the world's attention to this rapidly moving epidemic.

My personal view, which echoes the concerns of many, is that, just like HIV/AIDS, the Ebola disaster will knock at each individual's door and then the world will be forced to take action. Should we be witnessing this in a world so full of resources and knowledge? My other question is, "Why are we so quick to forget our tragedies until they rear their heads again in a worse form?"

Lastly, I would like to conclude by thanking the doctors, nurses and other individuals from around the world who are sacrificing their lives to help others. A special thank you goes to the Red Cross society, both national and international, and Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) for their support in the fight against Ebola. We are in this together.

# Executive Secretary's Town Hall, 21 October 2014: Statement on staff concerns

By Makane Faye, President, ECA Staff Union Executive Committee



*Makane Faye, SU, Carlos Lopes, ES & Collen Pelakile, Chief of Staff*

Dear Mr. Executive Secretary,

On behalf of the ECA staff and that of myself, I would like to congratulate you for your notable achievements. Our best wishes accompany you in your plans ahead.

Dear Colleagues,

We welcome Mr. Collen Kelapile, Chief of Staff, and other staff members who joined the Commission here in Addis, in the SROs or in Dakar, since the last Town Hall. We wish you all success in your new assignments and enjoyable stay in your respective duty stations.

Mr. Executive Secretary, today, we have many issues in our basket and hope you will be patient as usual to listen to us and work with us to find acceptable solutions.

### On Ebola

Mr. Executive Secretary, as of today, over 4,500 deaths are recorded due to Ebola in West Africa. As you rightly said during your interview with Radio France International, no economic development is expected from those countries in the coming year, in fact we expect zero or negative growth.

As part of the UN community, the ECA staff would like to participate in the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNEEMR). Africa First, means we should help ourselves before others come to our rescue. Hence, our staff is ready to volunteer.

In addition, Staff would like the UN to put in place a mechanism to enable us and other UN staff to contribute to the UN Ebola Trust Fund. I believe the same mechanism which was set up after the 2010 Haiti's earthquake would be suitable.

We are kindly requesting the ES to convey to the Secretary-General, ECA staff's readiness to join the mission and also to contribute financially to the trust fund.

We pay tribute to our three fallen colleagues, the last one passed away yesterday. Sincere condolences to the UN and to their respective families.

### On the Classification of G3 to G4 level

This was authorized by you as soon as you took office, I was informed last week that out of around 15 very long serving G3 staff members who were expected to be classified, only 4 were recommended. Fortunately we reviewed the process with the Chief of Staff and agreed that the classification criteria will be reviewed in order to bring the maximum number of staff on board; some staff have already retired and others are on their way out and would like to benefit from this process before leaving the Commission.

I hope also that other staff members whose posts were supposed to be classified several years ago and who are still in the pipeline will see their process finalized soon. This was discussed with Chief of Staff and he made firm commitments towards a successful settlement.

### On SCMS lateral moves

We hope that the process is in line with the rules and regulations governing reassignments affecting a large number of staff. Following discussions with Chief of Staff, we were informed that this was in line with the on-going restructuring in the Commission and specifically lateral moves within Division of Administration. Most importantly, it was agreed to hold consultations with the affected staff to appease



them and consider their choice towards existing vacant positions on this lateral move. We were also informed that other amicable options would be considered. We are liaising with the Chief of Staff and monitoring closely the situation.

## Staff Union Restaurant

The Staff Union has been operating a restaurant since 10 November 2011 at the Green House, with an opening ceremony graced by the former Director of Administration. The aim was to avail affordable food and also local food for the majority of staff in a green environment with the same or higher standard of the other restaurants operating in the compound. In addition, as we have a group of staff working on weekends, especially security officers, the restaurant was mandated to open on Saturdays up to 3pm in order to cater for these staff members. The service provider's contract has ended over one month ago, a new service provider was selected following a bid which was put out by SCMS. When planning the contract signature by the Staff Union, as we used to do, we were informed this time that the Staff Union cannot sign a contract with the service provider. For the Staff Union, it is important to resume the services of the restaurant whoever the signatory will be to enable the service provider start its operations and service adequately our clients. Discussions are still underway with OES but I would appreciate your kind intervention to speed up the process.

## Headquarters Agreement

The Staff Union would be grateful if discussion on the revised Headquarters Agreement be engaged with the relevant Government Officials and be signed as soon as possible, replacing an obsolete agreement still in vigor.

## Abuse of Authority and prohibited conduct

Mr. Executive Secretary, we are concerned regarding the on-going abuse of authority by some supervisors which is counter productive and major obstacle to get expected results from staff. ECA is an organization which has a diverse makeup of nationalities and cultures. Those who are joining it should be aware that there is a standard of behavior, especially from those with a supervisory responsibility. They are expected to set examples of an international standard work ethic. But instead, their treatment of staff working under their supervision is totally unacceptable by any standard let alone by the UN. The United Nations is an advocate of human rights and one of its core values enshrined in the Staff Regulations which states that, "Staff members shall exhibit respect for all cultures; they shall not discriminate against any individual or group of individuals or otherwise abuse the power and authority vested in them."

Unfortunately, it has been brought to the Staff Union's attention on several occasions that some supervisors are putting unnecessary pressure on their staff and at times

staff are subjected to degrading treatments. There are norms and values in this organization which should be respected by everyone. Some of the supervisors should be aware that such actions are contrary to SGB 2008/5. It seems that those who know very well the issue are exercising their abusive management system through the PIP and staff e-performance thinking that their abusive character can be covered-up through the PIP or e-performance system. Such staff members/supervisors were made in normal circumstances to accept receipt of the SGB upon taking their assignments with the organization. Furthermore, staff members are required to undergo mandatory training on the content of the SGB. We have discussed this issue with the Chief of Staff and looked at the various cases which were made known to the Staff Union. We have been promised informal resolutions and further capacity building programme. We are hoping that this action will help to solve the current serious problems of abuse of power and prohibited conduct going on in the Commission by some supervisors and will not require a further action by the ECA Staff Union alone.



Staff at the Town Hall meeting

## CONCLUDING ON:

### Tree Planting

This year in the context of FUNSA, we have initiated a tree planting exercise supported by the Minister of Environment Protection and Forest, where the UN was represented by the ECA Chief of Staff. We would like to undertake this exercise on a yearly basis as our contribution to the greening of the planet, especially to the country which is hosting a large part of the UN Organizations in Africa.

### Implementation of the Arusha Agreement

Signed by the Staff Management Committee (SMC) and approved by the Secretary General, the Arusha Agreement aims at giving the former 200 series (Regional Advisors and project personnel) the opportunity to go through the required vetting process, (Central Review Bodies) in order to be part of the One contract system approved by the General Assembly. In this context those staff members holding a 200 series contract would be eligible for continuing appointments and would participate fully in the UN mobility scheme. Deadline for implementing this agreement is 31 December 2014; and I am pleased to inform you that the process has been concluded in ECA, 6 months ahead of the deadline.

### E-Performance compliance

ECA has 95% compliance rate for the 2013-2014 cycle. I wish to congratulate all staff members for having finalized their e-performance process on time and HRSS for having led the process successfully on an innovative way. I urge staff to undertake the mid-term review (if not yet done), which was expected to be carried out in September.

I wish you all a nice evening.  
Thank you.

## Tree planting by Staff Members of UN system organizations

By Makane Faye, President of FUNSA

(Message read by Abraham Tameru, Vice-President, ECA Staff Union, Addis Ababa, 21 August 2014.

H.E. Ato Belete Tafere  
Desta, Minister of Environment and Forest,  
Mr. Collen Pelakile, Chief of Staff and Representative of the Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA),  
Dear FUNSA Council Colleagues,  
Dear Colleagues from ECA and the UN agencies,

Planting a tree is a wonderful way to honor our ancestors and also to honor the importance of what the tree will provide to the world through its lifetime. Trees take many years of growth; and they are a symbol of longevity, tranquility, and life itself. Trees can literally save lives through the shade they produce, provide shelter for birds and small animals, provide food to human beings; and add much to the appearance of the landscape, the atmosphere of natural beauty and serenity. Honoring the planting of a new tree, like we are doing today, through ceremony is an excellent way of honoring the trees, which are living creatures.

Ethiopia is planning to plant more than eight billion tree seedlings across the country during this rainy season. The country has been planting trees in millions since the Ethiopian millennium in



a bid to increase the forest coverage of the country.

As you know, Ethiopia hosts the ECA Secretariat for the 54 Member States and offices for over 20 UN Agencies. Hence, we see the involvement of the UN in this endeavor as very important. The participation of UN staff in Ethiopia in this unique initiative would touch and change the lives of millions of people and also it plays an important role in challenging Global Warming and Climate Change. Trees are closely linked with weather patterns and also the maintenance of a crucial balance in nature. Hence, environment protection is a universal responsibility of all of us.





*Mr. Collen Pelakile, Chief of Staff and Representative of the Executive Secretary, delivering a message on behalf of the Executive Secretary accompanied by Abraham Tameru, Vice-President, ECA Staff Union, who delivered a message from the President of FUNSA*



*Staff of United Nations system organizations ready for tree planting*

This opportunity is a unique and important vehicle to raise awareness and strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations. Our action is, we believe an important gesture to Ethiopia in demonstrating UN staff's concern and at the same time making our own little but significant, contribution to the cause of environment protection.

In collaboration with the Ethiopian Ministry of Environment and Forest, FUNSA is expected to plant

1,000 trees this year, which hopefully will be the beginning of an annual event to make our mark felt by the country.

I hope that the many Ethiopians and foreigners who will see these trees in the coming years will notice that there were UN staff members who stayed in Ethiopia and loved this land of Lucy; and we are very happy to see that you are all observing with us this unique moment of the life of the UN in Ethiopia. Long life to the trees, Long life to All of You.

“ Planting a tree is a wonderful way to honor our ancestors and also to honor the importance of what the tree will provide to the world through its lifetime. Trees take many years of growth; and they are a symbol of longevity, tranquility, and life itself. Trees can literally save lives through the shade they produce, provide shelter for birds and small animals, provide food to human beings; and add much to the appearance of the landscape, the atmosphere of natural beauty and serenity. ”



## Enhancing UN-Africa partnership using technology (ICT)

*Special Contribution to UNECA staff magazine on the occasion of UN 70 years Anniversary*

By Yimer Al Amin, Information Systems Technology Supervisor, ITSS/UNECA



“Wherever I look, I see how technology is transforming our world for the better.” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Tallinn (Estonia), 16 November 2013

The spirit of the UN is embodied in its work addressing the world's problems that no single country can tackle on its own. Similarly, Africa's tremendous challenges cannot be tackled without the support of International bodies like UN. Present time, the main areas of UN-Africa relationship include conflict management, peace keeping/peace building, economic, social and technological sectors.

My article revolves around one aspect of the United Nations turns 70 next year. During these long periods of time, the UN-Africa relationship can be elucidated as a genuine partnership characterized by mutual respect and collaboration which ends with success. On

the other hand, there are situations that led to frustration and disappointment. The remarkable support extended by UN to decolonize African Countries from European Power and the failure to prevent the Rwanda genocide can be cited as a case in point for both situations respectively.

There has been controversy and criticism of the UN organization and its activities since at least the 1950. Some have questioned whether the UN might be relevant in the 21st century.

The question now is what the future holds to UN- Africa Partnership? Does the UN still valuable to Africa? In my opinion, the answer is a resounding “yes” as Africa needs the United Nations now more than ever.

The role of the UN will become even more important in the years ahead as interlocking problems

such as food security, water, unemployment, energy, international migration, conflict, environment and climate change, communicable diseases, and human security – all with global dimensions, demanding global solutions.

UN-African relationship which is how to cement and enhance the partnership by exploiting the opportunity created by the advancement of Technology.

In the past, UN has focused on social and economic policies development and implementation to address Africa's development challenges. However, results show that sound policies alone could not yield economic growth and human development for Africa continent. Studies suggested that policies must be supported by Africa's public participation in the decision making processes to bring meaningful solution to eradicate poverty, to achieve millennium Development goals and to attain sustainable and equitable development etc.

The UN's strength lies in its universality and perceived legitimacy as these gives credibility and power in formulating global norms and principles which are acceptable to the people of the World. Using technology UN can enhance its vis-

ibility to build trust and exert global leadership.

Visibility is an asset, UN should keep on investing on ICT to enhance the way it does business and to improve its web presence as there are UN Agencies in Africa whose existence and activities not much known to Africa's people.

Furthermore, by using the appropriate technological solution, UN can support Africa in the following ways:

### **1. Support for advancement of e-governance**

UN can facilitate knowledge and experience sharing on e-governance among African and Developed countries. For Instance, The remarkable achievement of South Korea, which was ranked 1st from the world both in terms of the E-Government Development Index and the E-Participation Index as per UN e-Government Survey 2012, can be shared to Africa.

With enhanced e-governance policies and implementation, Africa's government can redefine and reform the government systems through which services are delivered in a way that maximizes development and enhance people participation. It will also enable them to deliver better service to all citizen including the poorest and most vulnerable citizen in equitable manner, to ensure transparency and accountability in the administration process and to modernize Government Institution to deliver effective services.

### **2. Attract innovative ideas**

Using the social media and other web resources, UN can lure In-

novative ideas from Africa. The valuable inputs of Africa's public can assist UN to formulate and promote the ideas which could reflect the best of UN over the past seven decades and to achieve its vision to be a "power House of Ideas".

### **3. Engage Africa's youth**

Technology is a vital tool to engage Africa's youth in the work and processes of the United Nations. It facilitates youth participation in all UN projects and programs. It will also help to enhance debate among youth who are one of the main protagonists of the change in the society.

To wrap it up, UN- Africa partnership is critical to Africa's social and economic development and the partnership should be based on mutual respect and genuine collaboration. Technology can be used as means to provide support to Africa in many ways.

It is through genuine and strong partnership that UN can build a better world for the people of the globe who will be guided by common rules and shared values. There is also a need to steer together in the multilateral institutions like the UN that the enlightened leaders of the last century have bequeathed to us, then indeed we can explore the hopes of the UN's founding fathers, and fulfill the continuing adventure of making this century better than the last.

Strong UN. Better World!

**Your  
Comments  
about  
Staff Voice  
are most  
welcome**

**SUMagazine@uneca.org**

## The pragmatic relationship between organizational culture and knowledge management: the Case of ECA

By Bewketu Bogale, ECA/HRSS



In 2012, I joined the graduate programme of Addis Ababa University and completed a two-year Master of Science programme in Human Resources and Organizational Development. In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the programme, I conducted a research aimed at examining the relationship between organizational culture and knowledge management imperatives of ECA. I am pleased to share the executive summary of the research work which highlights the key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to UNECA staff members who willingly and enthusiastically devoted their precious time and provided genuine inputs to the research work by completing the online questionnaire on time. I hope this research work will have an added value to UNECA endeavors in providing knowledge-based services to its member states and partners.

### Executive Summary

The overall objective of this study is to examine the practical relationships between organizational culture and knowledge management imperatives in the context of UNECA configuration. An attempt was made to identify the dominant organizational culture and dominating knowledge management trends; to explore the fit between the dominant organizational culture and the most practiced knowledge management

processes; to examine how the two dimensions fit or match to provide the knowledge-culture interface of the Commission and also to explore how the two categories of UNECA knowledge-workers (i.e. knowledge-generators and knowledge-deliverers) perceive UNECA's organizational culture dimension. Moreover, this research endeavored to examine the relationship and the predicting impact between organizational culture and knowledge management.

A cross-sectional and descriptive design; and quantitative -survey method were employed for this study. Data gathering instruments such as a questionnaire and document analyses were used. An online questionnaire was distributed to 163 knowledge-workers, (working in seven offices of the Commission located across the four corners of Africa); 67 knowledge-generators; 96 knowledge-deliverers from Substan-

tive division, Division of Administration, Sub-Regional Offices and IDEP. A representative sample size from Professional, National Officer and General Service categories were chosen using a mixed sampling method of stratified purposive and random-sampling took part in the study. The data obtained through the questionnaire was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical tools such as percentage, frequency, mean scores, standard deviation, standard mean error, t-Test, correlation and regression coefficient.

The data collected and analyzed has revealed that UNECA has an imbalanced organizational culture where one or two attributes of its organizational culture profoundly dominating its common values and behavior of its knowledge-workers. Moreover, UNECA heavily relied

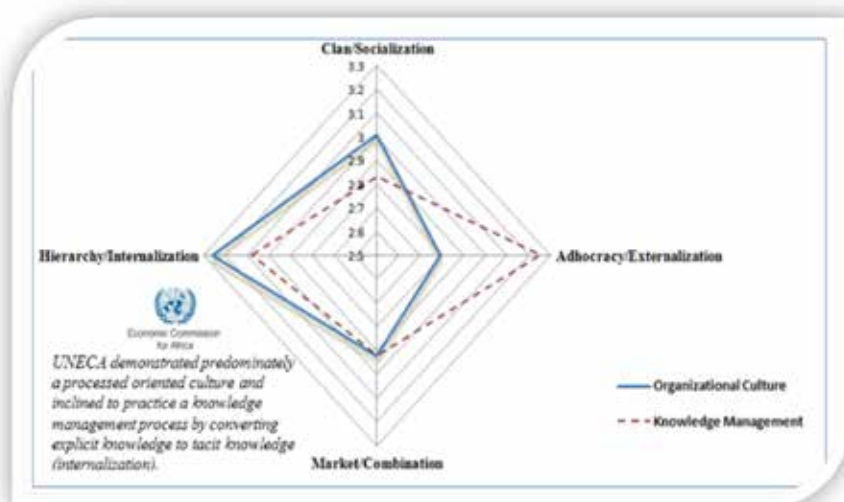


Figure 1: The knowledge-culture interface of UNECA



on and limited to very few distinct knowledge management processes to deliver knowledge. Consequently, its knowledge-culture interface compiled to accommodate a mismatch between organizational culture and knowledge management variables and failed to bring the conceptual knowledge management model (as indicated in the figure below). The two categories of knowledge-workers perceived the organizational culture of the Commission differently and the variation was utterly significant. The organizational culture not only created a positive and strong relationship with knowledge management dimensions but also had a predicting impact on the latter. These findings summed up to lead to a conclusion that UNECA has no effective knowledge culture that would have been streamlined and aligned to its refocusing theme to help in enhancing its contemporary efforts towards becoming a knowledge-based organization. That in turn would have contributed tremendously to achieve the Commissions primary objective, i.e., to become and remain the premier think tank on Africa's transformative agenda through purpose-oriented knowledge management.

In ordered to bring the required amalgamation between organizational culture and knowledge management, the overall recommendation of the study was that UNECA should revamp and double up the existing efforts to build an effective knowledge-culture by creating, developing and sustaining a strong and balanced organizational culture. UNECA should introduce organization-wide interventions that would not only last long to commence the nec-

essary level of alignment between organizational culture and knowledge management but also to ensure that UNECA knowledge culture interface linkup with a feedback system that would further affirm organizational effectiveness. The required level of knowledge culture could be put in place through a shared responsibility between management who are expected to empower employees, provide incentives, motivate, ac-

knowledge deliveries, tolerate mistakes and build trust, on one hand and employees (knowledge-workers) who should exhibit willingness to cooperate, show creativity and innovation, demonstrate boldness to take risks and enhance networking and openness to change.

**Key words - knowledge management and organizational**



**Manufacturing of**

- \* Kitchen Cabinte
- \* Walk in closet
- \* cupboards
- \* Internal Doors
- \* External Doors &
- \* Other wood works










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**5% discount for UN Staff Union Members**

## How is the UN perceived by its staff members?

By Tamra Tekeste, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Greetings! So today's topic is about knowing the historical background of the UN and finding out how it is perceived by the general staff. Now, when we discuss about finding out how the UN is perceived by the general staff, I believe that we must initially define the following terminologies: vision, mission, objectives, and goals so that we may be able to get a clear picture of where "we" the staff members of the organization stand.

According to encyclopedic references, a vision is defined as the resulting perception gained after a person has interpreted his or her surrounding environment by processing information that is contained invisible light. A mission is defined as the purpose of a company or organization that is guided by its actions, overall goals and strategies. An objective is defined as basic tools that underlie all planning and strategic activities which serve as the basis for creating policy and evaluating performance. Lastly, a goal is regarded as a desired result a person or a system envisions plans and commits to achieve a personal or organizational desired end-point in some sort of assumed development.

Hence, coming to the history of the United Nations, several research findings including senior staff members of the UN have defined the historical background of the UN as follows: The name "United Nations" itself coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt

was first used in the Declaration by United Nations of 1 January 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their Governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers. Thus, states first established international organizations to cooperate on specific matters.

In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. Those delegates deliberated on the basis of proposals worked out by the representatives of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States at Dumbarton Oaks, United States in August-October 1944. The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 50 countries. Poland, which was not represented at the Conference, signed it later and became one of the original 51 Member States.

Thus, the United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States and by a majority of other signatories. In this regard, the United Nations Day is celebrated on 24 October each year. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa was established in 1958 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council to promote economic cooperation among its member states that is the



nations of the African continents following a recommendation of the United Nations General Assembly.

On the other hand, many young staffs of my generation have advised me that their sole purposes or missions of working for the UN is to make a living and make great opportunities for themselves without feeling that they actually belong to the system or that they are families of the UN itself. In fact, they have explained to me that the reason why they think this way is due to the lack of awareness on the historical background of the UN.

Putting this issue into consideration, I vehemently feel that there should be a program organized by the staff union to bring about awareness of the historical background of the UN so as to enable all staffs to be aware of the potential of their impact on their long-term careers and also to enable them to develop a sense of belongingness into the system.

## I am a mom and a UN employee, it can be done!

ZebibTekle, HumanResources Assistant DoA/HRSS (UNECA)



*Work life balance, going to the gym before or after work enables you to perform better (ECA Gym)*

I am a mom of a girl and a boy, who are 2.5 and 1.1 years old respectively. After I gave birth to my second baby, I used to be 68kg, which is 11kg higher than my weight before giving birth. Now my weight is 58kg. I do exercise regularly for the last 9 years. I even did YOGA until my pregnancy was 8.5 months and continued to do simple exercise two months after delivery.

Doing exercise is not an option for me. It is rather a lifestyle. One of my principle in life is to maintain a

balance among five core pillars in human life. These are education, family, spiritual life, physical fitness/health, career/finance. Most people spend so much time and energy focused on only few of them at the expense of the rest. However, all are equally critical to maintain a balanced and happy life.

The other most important thing I believe is that these core areas are supportive to one another. Failing in one affects the stability of success of the others. We may not feel it for the time being. But in the long run, we surely will.

Therefore, I left myself with no option rather to engage myself and my time properly to ensure that I am on the right track in these core areas, of which, physical exercise is one of them. I heard that most moms excuse that they should give time to their kids rather than going to gym. Yes, it is not easy but it surely is possible to maintain a balance. We should also not forget that our kids also highly aspire to have healthy, fit, happy and motivated parents.



**I am Tsehay your cleaner at the ECA gym. We do our best to keep your fitness area clean. Come and get fit!!!!!!**



## Message from CCISUA on the Pension Fund

Dear Colleagues,

Firstly thanks to the 13,000 of you who signed the petition supporting our campaign to keep the pension fund in the UN.

The board of the fund supported this approach and asked that staff representatives be included in negotiations for an administrative relationship agreement, to be concluded by 30 September.

As of today, we have not seen a draft of this agreement and regret the culture of secrecy instituted by fund CEO, Sergio Arvizu and his team.

We also regret the reports reaching us of an escalation in threats and intimidation against pension fund staff, elected representatives and suspected whistleblowers since the start of our campaign.

Furthermore, pension fund staff have been told that they may no longer report suspected fraud to OIOS but must report instead in-house. We have notified OIOS of this and they are examining the matter.

And if it couldn't get any worse, the Secretary-General recently appointed a new Assistant Secretary-General of investments, with an interesting background (see news reports below).

<http://pension360.org/united-nations-appoints-new-cio-to-pension-fund/>

[http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2001-10-30/news/0110300143\\_1\\_pension-system-pension-fund-percentile](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2001-10-30/news/0110300143_1_pension-system-pension-fund-percentile)

[http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2002-11-19/news/0211190230\\_1\\_pension-system-pension-board-bond](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2002-11-19/news/0211190230_1_pension-system-pension-board-bond)

When we asked New York administration for an explanation, they confirmed that the incidents were known and discussed with the appointee during the interview process; moreover, several background checks were made and did not unearth any new fact. The Secretary-General subsequently decided to maintain his appointment.

The way our fund is managed affects each and everyone of you and we will keep you informed on the progress of our campaign.

Best regards,

The ECA Staff Union

Chères et chers collègues,

Nous tenons tout d'abord à remercier les 13.000 d'entre vous qui ont signé la pétition de soutien à notre campagne pour garder notre fonds de pension au sein de l'ONU.

Le Conseil d'administration du Fonds a soutenu cette approche et a demandé que les représentants du personnel soient inclus dans les négociations pour un nouvel accord administratif entre le fonds et l'ONU, et de finaliser cet accord avant le 30 septembre

A aujourd'hui, nous n'avons toujours pas vu le projet de cet accord et regrettons la confidentialité extrême mise en place par le PDG du fonds, Sergio Arvizu, et son équipe.

Nous regrettons également les rapports d'actes de menaces et d'intimidation, qui nous parviennent depuis le début de notre campagne, à l'encontre du personnel du fonds, leurs représentants et des dénonciateurs présumés.

En outre, il a été demandé au personnel du fonds de ne plus signaler les cas de fraude à l'OIOS. Nous en avons informé l'OIOS et ils étudient la question.

Cerise sur le gâteau, le Secrétaire général a récemment nommé un nouveau Secrétaire général adjoint des investissements. Cette personne a un passé intéressant (voir les rapports de presse ci-dessous).

<http://pension360.org/united-nations-appoints-new-cio-to-pension-fund/>

[http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2001-10-30/news/0110300143\\_1\\_pension-system-pension-fund-percentile](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2001-10-30/news/0110300143_1_pension-system-pension-fund-percentile)

[http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2002-11-19/news/0211190230\\_1\\_pension-system-pension-board-bond](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2002-11-19/news/0211190230_1_pension-system-pension-board-bond)

Lorsque nous avons demandé des explications à l'administration de New York, ils ont confirmé que les incidents étaient connus et discutés avec la personne nommée au cours du processus de sélection. En outre, plusieurs vérifications d'antécédents ont été faites et n'ont pas mis à jour de nouveaux incidents. A la suite de notre réunion, le Secrétaire général a décidé de maintenir sa décision.

La manière dont le fonds est géré nous concerne tous. Nous vous tiendrons informés du déroulement de notre campagne.

Meilleures salutations,

## Statement of the Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA) to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly

Item 139, UN Common System, Monday 27 October 2014

Delivered by Ian Richards, President

Thank you Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee, and good morning,

I speak to you today on behalf of the Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations, better known as CCISUA.

Allow me first to congratulate you Mr. Chairman, and the Bureau, on your election and trust that under your wise leadership, this Committee will this year complete its deliberations by Christmas.

I would like to thank the ICSC for their annual report, A/69/30, as well as the Chairman's presentation. I would also like to thank the Chair of ACABQ, the Director of PPBD, the delegates speaking this morning, and my colleague Diab El Taberi of FICSA.

I will take this opportunity to comment on particular aspects of the report on which we have concerns. But first let me introduce my 60,000 colleagues at CCISUA. Many work in difficult locations, some in danger of their lives. For example, on the frontline against extremism in Iraq and Syria, or responding to ebola in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Distinguished delegates, in the midst of many global crises, all begging for a coordinated response, the UN com-

mon system has shown itself more relevant than ever before. Let me give you an example from our host country, the United States, where last week's survey showed that 74 percent of likely voters here believe the UN to be relevant and needed<sup>1</sup>. That's the highest it's been since they started the poll five years ago.

And indeed, delegates, hardly a day goes by when our colleagues aren't in the news, handling ever more challenging tasks. The quality of our output, our impact and reach is on the rise. The expectations on our staff are even higher.

### Compensation review

Therefore we must make sure that the globally mobile, diverse and performing staff our organizations recruit to confront these challenges are the brightest and the best, and naturally we need the right compensation package to attract them.

For this purpose, you, the member States, have reaffirmed time and again that professional staff be paid by reference to the best paying national civil service - the so-called Noblemaire principle. And as the US Government Accountability Office has certified, in two consecutive reports, this is basically already the case.

<sup>1</sup> Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates

Much therefore, hangs on the outcome of this once-in-a-generation compensation review, which while taking place in difficult financial times, needs to be fit for the performance goals that you set us over the next five, 10, 20 years. A review that needs to bring in staff that, we all hope will continue to raise the bar.

The staff federations are not the only ones saying this. Organizations have been vocal as well.

Last week I was in Bhutan, a beautiful country, although challenging for our colleagues who live and work there. At the UN Day reception I asked a few of them, drawn from many languages and cultures, what they valued most in their compensation package. They agreed the salary was fair. However, the compensation package needed to respond to the sacrifices they and their families had made. One colleague told me how her husband gave up his job to accompany her to a country for which he would find no employment. The higher salary for staff with non-working spouses was therefore a clear motivating factor. Another said they liked that the education grant allowed them to send their children to school abroad in order to benefit from instruction in their mother tongue, not available locally. Yet another appreciated the ability to ship in much-needed staples such as children's clothes, food and medicines from their visits to Bangkok.

It is clear that if our organizations wish to get their best staff to the field, which includes, as pointed out, more women, we need a compensation package that is family friendly, respects cultural and linguistic diversity, and addresses the sacrifices that our colleagues' families need to make.

## Mandatory age of separation

Once you get the best staff to the right locations, it's important not to let them go. It's regrettable that some of our most experienced and productive staff are still required to retire at 60 or 62. This stands in contrast to the comparator service, which has no retirement age at all.

Last year you considered the option of current staff being able to choose to retire at 65 as of 2016. You asked for an in-depth study on the impact of such a measure and now, this detailed and comprehensive study is in your hands. The results are clear.

Not only will this measure reduce after-service healthcare liabilities by \$31 million, it also reduces the pension fund's actuarial deficit by almost a fifth – not to be dismissed when for the first time, the number of beneficiaries – those who take money out – is increasing while participants – those who pay money in – are decreasing<sup>2</sup>.

Furthermore, the principal concerns raised last year can be put to rest. The analysis shows this measure affects neither gender diversity, nor geographic diversity, nor rejuvenation, nor organizational performance. Other tools such as selection policy and performance management exist to address these, and the use, or rather non-use of these tools needs to be examined.

And this, distinguished delegates, may well be why Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, whose authority extends over the Secretariat, UNDP, UNOPS, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN-

Women and UNFPA has publicly urged support for this measure.

Some agencies have complained that this will upset their workforce planning. Others are undergoing yet another round of reforms and say this isn't the right time. Let's not forget though that this has been under discussion since 2009 and should have already been taken into account in workforce planning in the organizations where it exists, which according to the Joint Inspection Unit is almost nowhere<sup>3</sup>. As a result, 71 percent of retirees are rehired and we regularly receive reports of executive heads using their discretion to either extend staff beyond retirement age or rehire them by demanding loyalty of the kind that requires staff members to turn a blind eye to violations of the rules<sup>4</sup>.

If organizations are concerned about the impact on workforce planning we propose that staff simply be asked to state well in advance their intention on whether they wish to avail of the choice to retire at 65.

## Margin

We also welcome the Commission's findings on the net margin<sup>5</sup>. We take note of the Commission's forecast that the margin will reach the 115 desirable midpoint within two years. For CCISUA, even if we do not agree with the freeze, this shows that the current margin management system has broadly proved itself, although we should recall that in the last 15 of 20 years, UN staff have received less than the 115 margin. We trust therefore that both the Commission

and the General Assembly will be more attentive to this.

We also take note of the Commission's conclusions on the undesirable effects of trying to manage the five-year average margin. Managing a trailing average of the previous five years is like driving a car, looking out the back window. The graph on Page 68 of the report, shows the disastrous and yo-yo-like effects that would result.

## Pension fund

Let me end with a common system issue of great concern to us, the management of the pension fund, an item you are also considering today.

We welcome the decision of the fund's board that it should continue to be administered by the UN Secretariat, ensuring that the necessary management controls can be maintained.

But we are concerned that the management team at the Fund is actively seeking waivers to four important elements of the staff regulations. If approved, we foresee reduced opportunities for qualified pensions experts in your countries to work at the Fund and weakened ability of OHRM to check abuses of authority.

Firstly, management has requested exemption from the UN mobility policy as its functions are specialized. Yet, as you are aware, having passed the mobility policy in April, mobility already exempts specialized posts; this matter is moot.

Secondly, management wants discretionary authority to keep some staff beyond retirement, citing an IT project. Such discretion will remove incentives for workforce and succession planning and does not make

<sup>2</sup> The figure of 18.1 percent is reached by dividing the estimated reduction in the actuarial deficit, reported in A/69/30, para. 95, as 0.13 percent of pensionable remuneration, by the total actuarial deficit, reported in A/69/9, para. 70, as 0.72 percent of pensionable remuneration.

<sup>3</sup> Note of the Joint Inspection Unit, JIU/NOTE/2014/1, para. 107: "In general, organizations have no comprehensive workforce/succession planning policies or practices".

<sup>4</sup> Note of the Joint Inspection Unit, JIU/NOTE/2014/1, Executive Summary.

<sup>5</sup> Now at 117.4 percent, with the five-year average at 116.4 percent



strategic sense. The Fund's new IT system will need to be implemented by staff who can stay on for years to come in order to manage and maintain it.

Thirdly, management wants to promote certain colleagues from the G to P categories without passing through the exam, an issue on which you may well have an opinion.

Finally, management has asked for the right to laterally assign staff in contravention of your own instructions, reiterated on many occasions, that all vacancies be advertised externally.

Distinguished delegates, all this is taking place in a UN department whose management recently issued a directive forbidding staff from reporting fraud to OIOS. We have also received reports of alleged threats against suspected whistleblowers. With \$51 billion at stake, this is alarming. As Member States, ultimately responsible for the fund's finances. I therefore trust that you will seriously examine these risks to the Fund.

### In conclusion

To conclude, I am proud to speak before you today for members of staff, many of whom are serving in hardship and in extremely difficult locations, far removed from this elegant conference room. In countless areas across different continents they are doing incredible work, offering shelter to the dispossessed, rebuilding countries and societies from the rubble of conflict, working tirelessly to bring to life to the fine words that are spoken in this building.

I trust that you will be able to give serious considerations to the points we have made, and I thank you.

## Ms. Judith Karl, a US national is appointed as the New Executive Secretary of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) on 1 August 2014



UNECA Staff Voice would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ms. Karl to the new leadership position as the Executive Secretary of UNCDF. "UNCDF is the UN's capital investment agency for the world's 48 least developed countries. UNCDF has a unique financial mandate within the UN system: it provides investment capital and technical support to both the public and the private sector. UNCDF

has proven its ability to deliver true leverage on smaller and more risky investments and interventions within its core areas of expertise: Inclusive Finance and Local Development Finance. UNCDF's work on inclusive finance seeks to develop inclusive financial systems and ensure that a range of financial products is available to all segments of society, at a reasonable cost, and on a sustainable basis. UNCDF work on local development finance aims at ensuring that people in all regions and locations benefit from economic growth".

During the month of September, the new Executive Secretary, visited, Uganda, Ethiopia, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

## United Nations Women's Association (UNWA)

UNWA has published a COOK BOOK, entitled "Women United for A Better World". You can obtain a copy for Birr.200 (two hundred Birr). As you all know all funds raised by UNWA go to different charities in Ethiopia. To obtain your copy please contact:

- 1) Mrs. Amina Musa Latif  
UNWA Chair Lady  
aminamlatif@gmail.com  
Mobile Number:0920128258
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## The African Union Commission pledges one million to Ebola response

AU/WHO Joint Press Statement, 13 August 2014

The African Union Commission and the World Health Organization Urge Member States to replenish the AU Emergency Fund and the African Public Health Emergency Fund to support affected countries

Addis Ababa. 13 August 2014 – The African Union Commission pledged on Wednesday, 13 August, to support the ongoing continental and global efforts to turn the tide against the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria with one million US dollars from its Humanitarian Fund.

“The African Union Commission is committed to ensure that measures are put in place to prevent the further spread of the epidemic and that adequate support is provided to the affected communities”, said Dr. Mustapha Sidiki Kaloko, Commissioner for Social Affairs of the African Union Commission.

The African Union will call for an extraordinary Meeting of the Bureau of the 6th Conference of the AU Ministers of Health in September to lobby Member States to replenish the African Union Special Emergency Fund for Drought and Famine which will also now cover public health. In addition the meeting will also call for the WHO managed African Public Health Emergency Fund to be replenished to support affected countries. The meeting will coincide with a donor’s conference on the Ebola Outbreak taking place in September 2014 in

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to step up Africa’s efforts and to consolidate global support.

“The Ebola Virus Disease outbreak demonstrates that there is still an urgent need for the African countries to strengthen their health systems and disaster risk management”, said Dr Pierre M’Pele-Kilebou, WHO Representative to Ethiopia, “The African Union and the World Health Organisation are working closely to mobilize African countries and the international community to respond effectively to this public health emergency.”

The African Union established the African Public Health Emergency Fund in 2012 which is managed by WHO. More than \$700,000 has been spent from the fund since the Ebola outbreak began. The first Joint AU/WHO meeting of African Ministers of Health held in April 2014 in Luanda, Angola, issued a strong statement of solidarity, which is now translating into action with the contribution of \$3.5 million by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and \$200,000 by the Republic of Botswana to the on-going efforts.

The Ebola outbreak is providing the impetus to speed up the establishment of the African Centre for Disease Control and Prevention for early detection, preparedness and response. It is expected that by early 2016 at the latest, the centre should be functioning as an institution of the African Union. The African Union is also strengthening

the regional mechanisms to prevent and control animal diseases that can be spread across the borders and diseases which can be transmitted to humans from animals. These initiatives are being integrated into established institutional structures of Regional Economic Communities and Member States in order to ensure political support and long-term sustainability.

The West Africa Ebola Response Plan, developed by WHO in conjunction with the governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone requires more than \$100 million for additional health personnel, supplies and support to coordinated action. Surveillance systems and community education needs to be strengthened urgently to stop the epidemic.

The current epidemic is the biggest and most complex that the world has experienced since the first human outbreak occurred in 1976. The current epidemic has a total of 1848 suspected cases with 1013 deaths reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) as of 9 August 2014.

*For more information, visit*  
<http://www.africa-union.org>  
<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola>

## Six toxic beliefs that will ruin your career

Source [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com), Emotional Intelligence  
(Provided by Tsetargachew Zewde, Finance Assistant,  
UNECA, Staff Union)

There is nothing wrong with making a mistake. It's what you say to yourself after you mess up that matter. Your self-talk (the thoughts you have about your feelings) can either magnify the negativity or help you turn that misstep into something productive.

Negative self-talk is unrealistic, unnecessary, and self-defeating. It sends you into a downward emotional spiral that is difficult to pull out of.

All self-talk is driven by important beliefs that you hold about yourself. It plays an understated but powerful role in success because it can both spur you forward to achieve your goals and hold you back.

As Henry Ford said, "He who believes he can and he who believes he cannot are both correct."

Talent Smart has tested the emotional intelligence (EQ) of more than a million people and found that 90% of top performers are high in EQ. These successful, high EQ individuals possess an important skill—the ability to recognize and control negative self-talk so that it doesn't prevent them from reaching their full potential.

These successful people earn an average of \$28,000 more annually than their low EQ peers, get promoted more often, and receive higher marks on performance evaluations. The link between EQ

and earnings is so direct that every point increase in EQ adds \$1,300 to an annual salary.

When it comes to self-talk, we've discovered six common, yet toxic, beliefs that hold people back more than any others. Be mindful of your tendencies to succumb to these beliefs, so that they don't derail your career:

### **Toxic Belief #1: Perfection = Success**

Human beings, by our very nature, are fallible. When perfection is your goal, you're always left with a nagging sense of failure, and end up spending your time lamenting what you failed to accomplish, instead of enjoying what you were able to achieve.

### **Toxic Belief #2: My Destiny is Predetermined**

Far too many people succumb to the highly irrational idea that they are destined to succeed or fail. Make no mistake about it, your destiny is in your own hands, and blaming multiple successes or failures on forces beyond your control is nothing more than a cop out. Sometimes life will deal you difficult cards to play, and other times you'll be holding aces. Your willingness to give your all in playing any hand you're holding determines your ultimate success or failure in life.

### **Toxic Belief #3: I "Always" or "Never" Do That**

There isn't anything in life that you

always or never do. You may do something a lot or not do something enough, but framing your behavior in terms of "always" or "never" is a form of self-pity. It makes you believe that you have no control of yourself and will never change. Don't succumb to it.

### **Toxic Belief #4: I Succeed When Others Approve of Me**

Regardless of what people think of you at any particular moment, one thing is certain you're never as good or bad as they say you are. It's impossible to turn off your reactions to what others think of you, but you can take people's opinions with a grain of salt. That way, no matter what people think about you, your self-worth comes only from within.

### **Toxic Belief #5: My Past = My Future**

Repeated failures can erode your self-confidence and make it hard to believe you'll achieve a better outcome in the future. Most of the time, these failures result from taking risks and trying to achieve something that isn't easy. Just remember that success lies in your ability to rise in the face of failure. Anything worth achieving is going to require you to take some risks, and you can't allow failure to stop you from believing in your ability to succeed.

### **Toxic Belief #6: My Emotions = Reality**

Look at your feelings and separate fact from fiction. If not, you might want to read it. Otherwise, your emotions will continue to skew your sense of reality, making you vulnerable to the negative self-talk that can hold you back from achieving your full potential.



*Continued from page 19*

clearer than ever, that the social and economic transformation agenda of the continent cannot be effectively achieved unless child malnutrition is addressed as a priority.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our donors. I would like to specifically appreciate the support of the African Development Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation, the French Government and OCHA.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the team at the WFP Africa Office for their dedication and commitment in 2014, efforts that have paved way for one of the best years to date for the Office, hence laying solid grounds to achieve even greater results in the years to come.

*Continued from page 27*

resign ourselves to never letting something like that happen ever again.

H.E. Mr. Kazuhiro Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Eugene Owusu, UNDP Ethiopia Resident Representative, Mr. Abdalla Hamdok, Deputy Executive Secretary ECA, Ms. Lulit Zewde, Acting Director-General of the International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the time the United Nations was founded, Japan was recovering from having been reduced to ashes. Since then, Japan has never for a moment forgotten the horrors of war. We set out along our postwar path abhorring the atrocities of war that bring tragedy to innocent people all

over the world and renewing our pledge to peace. Our pledge never to wage war is something that will be handed down and fostered by the Japanese people for generation upon generation to come.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the only country in human history to have experienced nuclear devastation firsthand, Japan bears a certain responsibility to advocate for “a world free of nuclear weapons”. Japan has been, and is now, and will continue to be, a force providing momentum for proactive contributions to peace.

We hope that this resilient sapling will grow into to a resilient tree, and that this tree with its message of peace will live longer than any of us, and stay alive forever in peaceful surroundings here in Addis Ababa.

I thank you for your kind attention.

*Continued from page 40*

provide both partners with technical assistance to design and market new energy loan products, and reduce the loan risk by providing risk capital to financial service providers.

We encourage the involvement of micro-entrepreneurs who can assist with local distribution and customer service and support the application of a number of technologies like solar systems, biogas, improved briquettes and more efficient cook stoves.

In Uganda, UNCDF will also support the government to promote clean energy innovation, better product standards and work with partners to spread public aware-

ness about clean energy and the options available to access it.

We are completing assessments for other African countries, including Ethiopia, where UNCDF’s annual CleanStart Connect forum will take place on 29-31 October 2014 as part of a joint event with PAMIGA. Please visit us at [www.uncdf.org/cleanstart](http://www.uncdf.org/cleanstart).

*Continued from page 44*

lenging yet rewarding. Despite the heavy burden of both communicable and non-communicable diseases, the impact of climate change and disease outbreaks, Ethiopia has made remarkable progress towards the achievement of the health related Millennium Development Goals. I see this as a result of the commitment, hard work and joint efforts of all health partners under the leadership of the Government of Ethiopia. The United Nations cannot succeed alone, but in partnership with all the stakeholders concerned.

Indeed, the United Nations is for the united people from all corners of the world. The success of the United Nations is for all, but its failure, is only for us, the staff. Peace, solidarity, better health and quality of life, can be achieved if we, the United Nations work as One with the united people of the world.



*We are happy to see you!*

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