



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa

# Third retreat of African Permanent Representatives

Highlights and achievements

**Date: 8 September 2020**  
**Virtual meeting**



# Recent highlights and ECA's support to member States response to COVID-19

6th African Regional  
Forum On Sustainable  
Development

3<sup>rd</sup> Africa Business  
Forum

AfCFTA Pharma  
Initiative Pilot

COVID-19 in Africa:  
Protecting Lives and  
Economies

Africa Covid-19  
Communications &  
Information Platform  
(ACCIP)

Africa UN Knowledge  
Hub on COVID-19

Global debate on  
Africa's COVID-19  
lockdown exit  
strategies

Weekly multi  
stakeholder  
coordination meeting  
on Africa's response

Africa-wide  
macroeconomic model

## Highlights of ECA's COVID-19 response support to member states (cont)

Socioeconomic impact assessment and macro-modelling for Ethiopia, Namibia and Zambia

SG's Policy brief on the Socio-economic impact of Covid-19

Partnerships – MTN, CIVICUS, Citi-Bank

Regular meetings of African Ministers of Finance

Estimates of GDP impact of stimulus package to respond to COVID-19

Report: How COVID-19 is changing the world: a statistical

Launch of the ECA Africa Prize Watch Centre

Guinea: Accountability framework for use of Covid-19 relief funds

Launch of the Decade of Action



# Third retreat of African Permanent Representatives

Key takeaways and progress from the last retreat

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# What PRs recommended

- ✓ More country led approach and PR engagement at the core of our work – joint retreats, joint preparation for CoM, more say on the agenda of the Ambassadors briefing
- ✓ More defined roles and engagement with other PRs in New York and Geneva to enhance consistency of Africa's message
- ✓ We share with you back to office reports after missions in your countries
- ✓ 2 retreats a year: one hosted jointly and one led by the PR
- ✓ The Chair of the Bureau to constitute a working group to work with ECA on enhancing coordination and methods of work with the PRs.

# What PRs recommended

- ✓ More thematic briefings prior to STC meetings
- ✓ Share with you work/results achieved in the countries of focus regularly
- ✓ More engagement of the Bureau in the meetings of the ECA sub-regional Inter-Governmental Committees of Senior Officials and Experts (ICSODEs)
- ✓ Update you on the regular meetings with the Regional Economic Communities

# What PRs recommended – thematic focus

- ✓ ECA to consider doing more on the nexus between development peace and security and to play a more active role in and contribute to the deliberations at the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU.
- ✓ ECA to focus on the drivers of climate change, including key sectors contributing to greenhouse gas emissions such farming, deforestation and land use.
- ✓ Share knowledge products on building resilience to climate change with PRs and provide a list of practical solutions and key actions that PRs could pursue to catalyze climate action.
- ✓ ECA to organize a technical session for interested PRs in Addis Ababa to further discuss issues and next steps for AfCFTA Phase II negotiations and also to address concerns of countries with smaller economies

## What we have done so far

Regular meetings with Africa Group in New York

Initiated joint planning of retreats

Regular communication with PRs on ECA's activities

Back to Office reports shared with PRs (prior to COVID-19)

Enhanced consultation with the Bureau on preparation for CoM

Launch the Decade of Action with focus on climate issues



## What we have done so far

- **On increased focus on climate change:**
  - ECA is working on a four year project titled “Delivering Climate Resilient Development Policies in Africa”. Key components of the initiative include: Work on supporting low emissions livestock development; Integrating Climate information services to mainstream climate change in development planning; Climate change, trade and agriculture to leverage the AfCFTA towards climate informed trade in agricultural commodities; Collaborating with the Carnegie Climate Governance (C2G) Initiative to catalyse the creation of effective and inclusive governance for emerging climate technologies, in particular, for solar radiation modification and large-scale carbon dioxide removal.
- **On providing a list of practical solutions for member States on climate change:**
  - The Africa Climate Talks, a series of continent-wide dialogues between experts, civil society and policy makers has been initiated, and a key outcome of the dialogues will be key recommendations for climate actions by all actors, including the PRs. The Talks will culminate in the Climate Change and Development in Africa conference, which will be a convening to coalesce African perspectives for input into the COP 26 now scheduled for 2021.
  - Updating of the Africa Climate Change Strategy has been initiated in conjunction with AUC (DREA), and this will be discussed with the PRs before submission to the African Ministerial Conference on Environment.
- **On peace, security, development nexus:** sub-regional studies are under way on the correlation between development, peace, security and human rights. Within this programme, SRO-WA and SRO-CA are jointly undertaking the study in collaboration with UNOWAS. RITD is coordinating the subregional studies
- Bureau members will be engaged on the preparations for the ICISOEs.



**THANK YOU!**