



**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Committee of Experts of the Conference of African**  
**Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development**  
Forty-second meeting  
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (hybrid), 28 February–1 March 2024

Item 6 of the provisional agenda \*\*  
**Statutory issues**

## **Report of the Executive Secretary on the activities of the Economic Commission for Africa from April 2023 to February 2024**

### **I. Introduction**

1. The programme of work of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) for 2023 is rooted in a common understanding of transformational pathways and in an evidence base that has given rise to a coherent school of thought and practice that has positioned ECA as a thought leader in the sphere of African socioeconomic development. During the period under review, the Commission has focused on interventions that are grounded in its knowledge products, and the provision of capacity-building support, technical assistance and advisory services to its members. These interventions are well informed by clear theoretical knowledge and empirical evidence, with a view to accelerating socioeconomic development in Africa.

2. The ECA programme of work was guided by the Commission's medium-term programme framework for the period 2022–2025, in which it streamlined its strategic focus areas along the following three tracks for transformative and impactful intervention: (a) Strengthening macroeconomic policy and sustainable financing at the interface with governance issues; (b) Boosting the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, in order to promote sustainable industrialization, economic diversification, job creation, poverty reduction and economic empowerment; and (c) Climate resilience and the blue economy. In addition, the Commission has integrated cross-cutting issues such as data, statistics, technology and innovation in all three tracks. Specifically, ECA has promoted digital transformation, supported modernization of statistical systems and the use of innovative statistical tools, and enhanced the capacity of governments in relation to public sector management, development planning and risk management.

3. The principal achievements of ECA during the reporting period in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union are presented in the following section. The report on the follow-up to the resolutions adopted during the fifty-fifth session of the Commission (E/ECA/COE/42/8) provides more information on the

---

\* Reissued for technical reasons on 26 January 2024.

\*\* E/ECA/COE/42/1.



actions taken by ECA to address the challenges and needs of its members during the period under review.

## **II. Key results achieved**

### **A. Strengthening climate resilience, promoting a just energy transition and harnessing the potential of the blue economy**

4. The impact of climate change threatens Africa's development gains and the achievement of the two agendas. Africa is home to 17 of the 20 countries most at risk from climate change, despite its limited contribution to global warming. African countries spend between 2 and 9 per cent of their budgets on managing extreme weather events, which poses a heavy burden on public finances and diminishes the funds that are available for development. To seize the potential for mobilizing private and public finance in the carbon markets, the Commission worked to raise awareness in that regard by sponsoring the sixth Africa Business Forum, held on the margins of the thirty-sixth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, in February 2023. The Forum, which was held under the theme "Making carbon markets work for Africa", served as a platform to promote ongoing dialogue between the African private and public sectors on the value of high-integrity carbon markets and the instruments required for their operationalization in Africa.

5. ECA supported the organization of the inaugural Africa Climate Summit, hosted by the Government of Kenya in September 2023. Immediately preceding the Summit, ECA convened the eleventh Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, in partnership with the Government of Kenya, which served as the technical segment of the Summit. The Conference brought together various African stakeholder groups to discuss major climate change and development challenges facing the continent, and to identify corresponding opportunities and solutions. The evidence-based and analytically grounded contributions that emerged from the Conference fed into meetings to negotiate common African positions in preparation for the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

6. The Commission convened side events on the margins of major events to explore actionable proposals to effectively address the intersection of debt, climate and development. The side events focused on action that African countries could take in collaboration with development partners, including multilateral development banks, to increase available financing for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Discussions at those side events covered increasing climate finance, including grants, through concessional lending windows; scaling up the adoption of climate-resilient debt clauses; and providing guarantees to support initiatives like debt-for-climate swaps and the issuance of green and blue bonds.

7. At the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, ECA supported the African team of climate negotiators, organized side events and advocated the operationalization of a loss and damage fund, which had been agreed to at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties.

8. A just energy transition, based on Africa's endowment of renewable and non-renewable resources, requires an understanding of the options and the formulation of optimal investment strategies at the country level. To that end, in April 2023, ECA organized the fourth iteration of the Energy Modelling Platform for Africa, with a view to optimizing investment in the continent's energy transition to meet its growing demand for low-carbon, inclusive and climate-resilient development.

9. ECA together with the Government of the Niger, and in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and entities of the

United Nations system, convened the ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Niamey from 28 February to 2 March 2023, under the theme “Accelerating the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union”. The Forum yielded a set of key messages and the Niamey Declaration, which served as the collective input of Africa to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, held in July, and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, held in September.

10. ECA supported its members in harnessing the potential of the blue economy and tourism sector to drive economic growth and inclusive development. ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other partners, supported the Comoros in organizing a ministerial conference on the blue economy, held in June 2023 in Moroni, which was focused on translating the Great Blue Wall initiative into concrete projects. In the conference outcome document, the Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa, leaders of African island and coastal States outlined their commitment to the development of blue economy regional value chains.

11. The Commission supported Seychelles in conducting a situational analysis of the blue economy and the circular economy, with a focus on micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. It also offered technical assistance to Burundi and Ethiopia in developing policy frameworks and strategies for the tourism sector.

## **B. Fostering macroeconomic stability through improved public and private finance and good economic governance**

12. The economic shocks from recent crises such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and climate change-related disasters ballooned the external debt of African countries. In response, ECA strengthened the capacity of its members to manage their external debt, including through monitoring and credible reporting, with a view to enhancing debt sustainability. In addition, ECA provided support through technical workshops on debt, during which issues relating to debt relief, debt restructuring and robust debt management were discussed.

13. ECA published the second edition of *Economic Governance Report*, which featured a methodology for measuring tax expenditure in African countries, an analysis of tax expenditure in 10 African countries, and evidence-based policy recommendations for effective tax administration. Moreover, ECA developed a technical paper to facilitate discussion of a common African position on international tax cooperation in the context of the United Nations, with a view to enhancing domestic resource mobilization in Africa.

14. ECA supported the Government of Ethiopia in enhancing its capacity to administer and effectively implement property tax policy through a peer-learning session with the Government of Namibia, held from 23 to 27 October 2023. That led to the finalization by the Government of Ethiopia of a draft property tax proclamation, from which references to comparability costs and replacements costs had been removed, and in which had been incorporated references to the involvement of electricity and water utility institutions in property tax enforcement, and to the need to establish deed offices at city and regional levels with access to adequate information-technology support.

15. In its effort to strengthen economic modelling for evidence-based policy formulation and forecasting, ECA supported the development of a macroeconomic model for Mauritius, which provided empirical estimates that could inform the country’s new investment strategy. ECA also strengthened the capacity of experts from five countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Togo) to budget with the demographic dividend in mind, through the development of approaches and tools

to enhance evidence-based decision-making regarding budget allocations and investment.

16. The Africa High-level Working Group on the Global Financial Architecture has continued to be coordinated by ECA. The Working Group serves as a forum to develop proposals for the reform of the global financial architecture and to strengthen the African voice on the global stage. During the reporting period, ECA organized five meetings of the Working Group, during which participants discussed the African Development Bank's solution for re-channeling special drawing rights; proposals to reform the global debt architecture, the special drawing right system and the operational model and lending instruments of the International Monetary Fund; and a road map for the evolution of the World Bank. The proposals put forth by the Working Group have received attention and influenced discussions in various global forums.

17. ECA supported its members in improving financial market liquidity, sovereign risk management and innovative financing through public-private partnerships, with a view to attracting private sector investment and participation in the building of sustainable infrastructure through innovative finance and capital market development. In Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire, ECA completed market studies on opportunities to develop inclusive bonds in the cross-border trade and craft processing sectors. In Guinea and Mauritania, ECA supported feasibility studies on sovereign credit ratings. The Commission strengthened the capacity of six countries (Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia) to utilize public-private partnerships for innovative financing and infrastructure development.

### **C. Strengthening effective development planning, monitoring and reporting for sustainable development**

18. Owing in part to multiple reporting requirements, African countries face challenges in executing national development plans, which are critical for long-term national development. The training of national planning entities in the use of the integrated planning and reporting tool increased awareness of approaches to aligning national development plans with the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and to monitoring progress in achieving those plans. Following training in May 2023 in Uganda, scores for the alignment of the country's national development plan to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 reached 83.0 per cent and 77.6 per cent, respectively. This is a significant improvement over the alignment scores in 2018, which were 64.0 per cent and 42.0 per cent, respectively. ECA also provided technical support to four countries (Cabo Verde, Gambia, Niger and Nigeria) in the formulation of their national development plans and in the integration of Vision 2050 priorities into those plans. In 2023, ECA also supported seven of its members in conducting voluntary national reviews. In recognition of its work on the integrated planning and reporting tool, ECA was one of the recipients of the 2023 International Standards of Accounting and Reporting Honours, which were announced during the eighth World Investment Forum, held in October 2023 in Abu Dhabi.

19. To align the targets for the decade 2022–2031 in the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries with the goals set out in the national development plans of its members, ECA incorporated into the integrated planning and reporting tool a module to support African least developed countries in monitoring and reporting. In May 2023, ECA, in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the Government of Botswana, convened a high-level African regional meeting to review the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. The outcome of that meeting will inform preparations for the third United Nations Conference on the Landlocked Developing Countries.

20. During the reporting period, 29 training activities were delivered by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning on various themes relating to public sector management, benefiting 2,780 officials from 52 African countries. Those training activities were focused on economic management and development planning, including trade analysis and negotiation; mineral supply chain management; digital transformation of technical and vocational education and training; fiscal policy and budgeting; risk management and development planning; climate change and carbon-market readiness; negotiating regional trade agreements in times of crisis; and gender-responsive economic policy management. ECA also offered three training sessions on mainstreaming risk management into policy planning and development.

#### **D. Supporting the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and the free movement of people**

21. In view of the role of trade as a powerful and low-cost tool to support economic resilience in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area, ECA sustained its advocacy, training and technical assistance in relating to the Agreement in particular and to regional integration in general. During the reporting period, ECA supported six of its members (Central African Republic, Eswatini, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Namibia and South Sudan) in the formulation of national strategies for implementing the Agreement, bringing the total of such strategies in which ECA has played such a role to 30. Indeed, ECA has provided support to 43 of the 47 countries that have ratified their instruments of accession to the Agreement, including the latest two countries (Botswana and Comoros), which ratified the Agreement in 2023. The national strategies provide a road map for countries in the inclusive implementation of trade policies with the objective of diversifying their economies, creating jobs, and generating foreign exchange, thereby optimizing the benefits gained from the Agreement.

22. In Central Africa, ECA held a series of consultations, including a webinar on women and gender equality in operationalizing the Agreement, conducted in partnership with the Commission of the Economic Community of Central African States; a workshop to raise awareness of the implementation of the Agreement in Equatorial Guinea; and workshops on statistics and modelling in the analysis of the Agreement in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sao Tome and Principe, with a view to supporting the development of a global trade analysis project database for those three countries. In East Africa, ECA supported efforts to build the capacity of stakeholders involved in implementing the Agreement. One example of this was in the Comoros, where ECA organized an event to raise awareness of the Agreement among government officials, Members of Parliament and development partners.

23. In North Africa, ECA offered technical assistance to Libya in the design and development of its national strategy for implementing the Agreement, in particular in creating a list of tariff offerings and a service commitments schedule. In Southern Africa, ECA facilitated a national stakeholders' consultative meeting and workshops to raise awareness in Eswatini and Mozambique. In West Africa, ECA supported the formulation and validation of the national implementation strategy of Guinea-Bissau. It provided technical assistance to Benin that led to the launch of national consultations on the Agreement. In Burkina Faso, ECA supported national consultations of civil society organizations on the content of the country's national implementation strategy. The consultations helped to raise awareness of the Agreement, its potential benefits for signatory States and the role of various stakeholders in the implementation of the national strategies.

24. Noting that the free movement of persons is integral to fostering regional integration, ECA offered technical assistance to its members in facilitating progress towards that goal. For instance, it assisted Côte d'Ivoire developing an action plan for the official recognition of migrant worker skills that covered: the establishment of a technical working group on migration that would include all stakeholders; the conduct of a workshop to build the skills of stakeholders involved in the recruitment of foreigners and migrants; and a proposal for new mechanism to facilitate the recognition of migrants' skills and qualifications. In June 2023, ECA held a workshop to promote the sharing of experience relating to migration statistics and recognition of migrants' skills that was attended by stakeholders from Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

25. To enhance the capacity of its members to develop, implement and monitor policies and programmes on regional value chains and issues relating to phase II of negotiations under the Agreement (i.e. investment, competition, intellectual property and e-commerce), ECA implemented a project that was focused on assessing the readiness of African countries to engage in digital trade. As a result, a data set on regional digital trade restrictions was compiled, and a regional digital trade integration index was computed. In addition, 13 national data sets on digital services trade restrictions were compiled and a digital services trade restrictiveness index was computed for each of the corresponding countries.

## **E. Promoting industrialization, economic diversification, resilient infrastructure development and job creation**

26. The Commission supported its members in the process of achieving economic diversification and transformation. For example, ECA contributed to the battery and electric vehicle initiative being undertaken by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia by coordinating the signing of a framework agreement among the two countries, the African Export-Import Bank and ECA on the creation of a joint special economic zone between the two countries. ECA also launched a pre-feasibility study for the joint special economic zone.

27. ECA supported Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe in formulating their national industrial policies and in ensuring that those policies were harmonized and aligned with subregional industrialization strategies, such as the COMESA Industrialization Policy (2015–2030) and the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap (2015–2063). ECA also supported Zimbabwe in developing local content thresholds in the pharmaceutical, fertilizers and packaging subsectors, with a view to enhancing the capacity of national stakeholders, especially those in the private sector, to tap into economic potential that is inherent in various sectors, thereby boosting local investment, beneficiation, value addition and value-chain development.

28. To benefit from the demographic dividend made possible by the growth in the continent's young and working-age populations, Africa must create the type of jobs that will make possible the achievement of its development aspirations. To that end, ECA strengthened the capacity of its members to accelerate sustainable economic diversification through private sector growth by leveraging technology and innovation to support the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. For instance, in partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, ECA conducted a series of workshops in Morocco that were focused on access to finance, product development, market development strategies and digitalization of export activities to build the capacity of 200 women-led micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

29. ECA continued to promote continental initiatives on infrastructure development. With the framework of the draft African action plan for the Second Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021–2030, ECA supported the preparation of the road safety strategy of Eswatini, which was launched by the Prime Minister of Eswatini in June 2023. It also offered technical support to the Gambia in producing its national road safety action plan. In supporting the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market, ECA, in collaboration with the African Civil Aviation Commission, organized roadshows in Ethiopia and Nigeria in May 2023 to raise awareness of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the Single African Air Transport Market and initiated assessments to measure the gaps in respect of the implementation of those initiatives. That same month, ECA introduced the use of satellite imagery and artificial intelligence in monitoring transport corridors during a ministerial meeting of the footprint countries of the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia transport corridor (Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan).

30. To strengthen the regulatory institutions of its members and their ability to attract private sector investment into the electricity value chain, ECA completed a regulatory review of the electricity sector in 16 African countries. It also conducted training in the use of a regulatory openness, attractiveness and readiness tool in 20 African countries during the reporting period.

## **F. Leveraging data and new technologies to modernize statistical systems**

31. ECA supported its members in the development of guidelines and protocols for geocoding and using spatial techniques to analyse and properly interpret census data. ECA drafted a report on geospatial data sets relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, in which it assessed efforts at the national, regional and global levels to make available fundamental geospatial data sets that can be used in the monitoring of and reporting on progress towards the Goals.

32. To enhance the capacity of its members to transform and modernize their statistical systems, ECA providing training in the development of data extraction procedures and strategies for the modernization of statistical systems. ECA supported Cameroon in the use of natural capital accounting as part of technical assistance provided to the country in the formulation of a national plan for the development of economic and environmental accounting.

33. ECA supported Ghana, Namibia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania in the use of a new approach to estimating current levels of poverty and vulnerability in the absence of recent household consumption and income data. The approach enables policymakers to make decisions even in the absence of recent data, by generating updated estimates of poverty and vulnerability using the existing household surveys.

34. ECA supported several initiatives that were implemented by its members to harness new technologies and innovation. For example, ECA assisted the Gambia in developing a draft national digital transformation strategy, which aims to address current gaps in the country's digital economy and to accelerate economic growth through the deployment and utilization of digital services. In 2023, ECA also organized a climate adaptation hackathon and two coding camps for girls, the latter of which were held in Mozambique and the Niger.

## **G. Engendering digital transformation and mainstreaming gender in sectoral policies**

35. ECA provided technical assistance to Lesotho and Tunisia, with a view to addressing the gender-related digital divide and reimagining a positive gender

perspective in the context of economic and digital transformation. In addition, ECA, in collaboration with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, designed and implemented a support programme for women-led small and medium-sized enterprises in Morocco, with the objective of enhancing women's productive employment through entrepreneurship focused on the provision of digital and export-oriented services.

36. ECA offered technical advisory services in Lesotho, Mozambique and Zimbabwe on mainstreaming a gender perspective in national plans, policies and programmes, with a view to the integration of gender issues in strategic planning. In Lesotho, ECA provided assistance to the Ministry of Gender in gender auditing and gender-responsive budgeting. In Mozambique and Zimbabwe, ECA assisted in mainstreaming gender in the national strategies for the development of statistics in those countries. The Commission also enhanced the capacity of four of its members (Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe) to utilize the African Gender and Development Index in the monitoring of and reporting on progress made towards selected targets under Sustainable Development Goal 5 and in meeting other gender equality commitments.

## **H. Accelerating the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 through United Nations system-wide coherence and collaboration**

37. To strengthen strategic engagement between the United Nations and the African Union in implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, ECA partnered with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in organizing the annual Africa Dialogue Series. ECA also facilitated the convening of two high-level strategic dialogues between the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the first on 1 and 2 May in Addis Ababa and the second on 15 November online. During the two strategic dialogues, participants agreed on critical actions required to strengthen engagement between the African Union and the United Nations and on concrete priorities for accelerating the achievement of the two agendas. The participants also affirmed the importance of the African agenda being led by the African Union and the need for strong alignment and joint implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda within the framework of the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063. In addition, “college-to-college” meetings were inaugurated between the United Nations and the African Union as a new strategic platform for dialogue to facilitate high-level engagement and commitment. Finally, emphasis was placed on the need for horizontal and vertical integration of Agenda 2063 into the cooperation frameworks that United Nations Resident Coordinators and their country teams had established with African Governments, with a view to ensuring the integrated implementation of the two agendas at the country level.

38. ECA also supported the organization of the seventh annual African Union-United Nations Conference, a meeting between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairperson of the African Union, which was held on 28 November 2023 in New York. At the meeting, a human rights partnership framework between the African Union and the United Nations was signed by the two leaders, and far-reaching decisions were taken to deepen collaboration on peace and security, reform of the global financial architecture, Africa's economic recovery, membership of the African Union in the Group of 20, and socioeconomic development in Africa.

39. ECA, as a member of a technical working group on Agenda 2063, supported the African Union in the evaluation of the first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023) of Agenda 2063, and in the formulation of the second 10-year implementation plan, which was adopted at an African Union ministerial retreat in October 2023. A validation workshop for the second 10-year implementation plan was held in Nairobi from 18 to 20 December.

40. ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the Department of Global Communications and the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, co-organized the annual African Dialogue Series, which provided a platform for examining and debating critical issues relating to peace, security and development in Africa. The goal of the African Dialogue Series is to foster greater consensus on innovative solutions to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. During the 2023 Dialogue, ECA, through its Regional Integration and Trade Division and its Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division, led on the sub-theme “Digital service trade: great potential but regulatory frameworks are urgent”.

41. ECA prepared a strategic document on enhancing collaboration with United Nations Resident Coordinators and country teams and promoting institutional coherence in country-level support from ECA. In drafting the document, ECA sought to promote greater synergy and collaboration through deepening vertical integration, in line with the United Nations reform agenda, with a view to facilitating more impactful interventions and better reporting at the country level.

42. ECA, as a member of the joint secretariat of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa (along with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Development Coordination Office), organized the annual meeting of the Platform, which was held in April 2023 in Niamey on the margins of the ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, and the annual retreat of the Platform, which was held in September in Nairobi. At both meetings, participants took stock of the work of the Platform, reviewed the progress made in working with the African Union and mapped areas of priority, among which were the operationalization of carbon markets and governance issues in Africa. In addition, the joint secretariat prepared a resource mobilization strategy and standard operating procedures for the Platform.

## **I. Operational modalities for enhanced delivery of the programme of work**

43. The accountability and programme performance review meeting is an accountability mechanism by which all ECA programme divisions and programme support divisions are required to report on progress and performance against planned activities as reflected in their annual business plans. The financial performance of each division is also presented during the meetings. The meetings are organized regularly, and ECA held three such meetings in 2023. The meetings serve as a forum for representatives of the divisions to showcase their performance, share experiences and receive feedback.

44. To improve planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation for results, the Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division provided training to ECA staff members in results-based management, with the aim of deepening the culture of learning, performance and accountability in ECA.

45. ECA developed a stakeholder mapping and engagement plan to improve the partnership and resource mobilization efforts of the Commission. The plan will be a living document to guide corporate- and programme-level efforts to deepen and strengthen strategic relationships with stakeholders and partners. A guide on managing partnerships was also developed to support ECA staff members in making well-informed and consistent decisions concerning partner selection and the design, initiation, approval, implementation, monitoring and reporting on partnerships and extrabudgetary programmes.

46. ECA launched a procurement and supply chain management campaign in response to audit and oversight reviews, with a view to creating agile and well managed procurement and supply chain systems that support clients effectively and efficiently. In terms of human resources management, during the reporting period,

gender parity in the Professional category reached 47.0 per cent, while the overall vacancy rate declined slightly, from 11.6 per cent in 2022 to 11.0 per cent in 2023.

### **III. Conclusion**

47. Cognizant of its role and the expectations of its members in a time of global economic and political turbulence, the Commission streamlined its principal interventions along three tracks for transformative and impactful results. It produced cutting-edge research and provided policy advice geared towards strengthening climate resilience and promoting a just energy transition; harnessing the blue economy; accelerating implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area; promoting sustainable industrialization, economic diversification and job creation; bridging the digital gender divide; and improving data quality and modernizing statistical systems for effective monitoring and the provision of accurate information.

48. In 2024, the Commission will deepen its interventions along the three tracks. It will continue to support its members in macroeconomic management and to facilitate the identification and adoption of innovative financing tools and economic governance instruments to boost domestic resource mobilization. It will also work to accelerate implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, thereby promoting sustainable industrialization and economic diversification. Furthermore, ECA support will be geared towards increasing investment in climate action to enhance national resilience, promote the circular economy, harness the potential of the green economy and blue economy, and eradicate poverty. The Commission will also expand its role in spearheading digital transformation, in strengthening data and statistical systems on the continent, and in promoting social inclusion and inclusive growth. It will also further engage policymakers and other stakeholders in training and peer learning on related topics through the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning.

49. ECA will continue its close cooperation with the African Union and will build on its existing strategic partnerships with regional and subregional organizations (including the regional economic communities), central banks, universities, think tanks and other research institutions, and civil society and private sector organizations. It will also forge new partnerships to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

50. The Commission will continue to integrate a gender perspective in its operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate. It will ensure that a gender perspective is reflected in its programme of work. Through its subprogrammes, the Commission will also strengthen the capacity of its members by providing tailored technical support, advisory services, and hands-on training in relation to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, inclusion and economic diversification, women's entrepreneurship, and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into national policies and programmes. ECA will also promote greater alignment and coherence among global, regional and national frameworks for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, ECA will pursue the implementation of measures to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in programme design, implementation and evaluation, and provide training in the provision of reasonable accommodations for conference and workshop participants, among other measures.