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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Statutory issues

Progress report on the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

I. Introduction

1. The present progress report is being submitted to the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development during the fifty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in accordance with current practices and in response to its request for regular updates on the work of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP).¹

2. The period under review continued to be characterized by the lingering effect of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the socioeconomic impacts of international and regional conflicts and insecurity and continued climate change impacts. These crises had an adverse impact on health and the economy in general and on the most vulnerable population groups, women and young people in particular. African countries continue to face capacity gaps in the design and implementation of their development plans and in their ability to address the impacts of the ongoing multisectoral crises.

3. In response to recommendations made by member States at the seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, the fifty-third session of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development and the fifty-eighth session of the Governing Council of IDEP, the Institute has prioritized reinforcing officials' capacity to foster more inclusive and resilient economies. Emphasizing a shift from ad hoc crisis responses to proactive, systematic and integrated risk management in development planning, IDEP advocates the integration by member States of risk management into their policies, plans, programmes, budgets and projects. The main takeaway of those recommendations is the importance of proactive

* E/ECA/COE/42/1.

¹ IDEP is a pan-African institution created by the General Assembly with the primary purpose of accompanying and supporting African countries in their quest to build human resource capacity as a necessary prerequisite for sustaining independence and promoting socioeconomic development. Its main activities, derived from its mandate, are organized around a portfolio of capacity development and training programmes, along with a set of policy research and dialogue initiatives. It also offers on-demand advisory services to Governments and public institutions and serves as a forum for the exploration of alternative thinking on African development.



measures to alleviate socioeconomic and environmental impacts in the face of future crises, thereby enabling better crisis management.

4. During the period under review, IDEP witnessed an upsurge in capacity development requests from member States and, consequently, in the number of trainees, in particular women and young people.

5. IDEP offered 69 training activities in 2023 (compared with 54 in 2022), focused on economic management and development planning, mineral supply chain management, the digital transformation of technical and vocational education and training, fiscal policy and budgeting, risk management and development planning, climate and carbon markets readiness, trade analysis and negotiation – including in times of crisis and pandemic, sovereign credit rating, cross border e-commerce, the empowerment of women and young people in agriculture and gender-responsive economic policy management.

6. An estimated 3,402 trainees from 52 member States received training in the above-listed thematic areas, through e-learning, hybrid, tailor-made and face-to-face delivery channels. In addition to its training mandate, IDEP continued to engage in agenda-setting and innovative policy research. Through high-level policy dialogues, development seminars and fellowship programmes, IDEP generated knowledge on the African transformation agenda.

7. The IDEP strategic plan for the period 2019–2023 underwent an independent evaluation in November 2023, which resulted in important findings. IDEP programmes were judged to be relevant (88 per cent), effective (83 per cent) and efficient (83 per cent). The Institute was found to have a competitive advantage in training (86 per cent). It continues to face the constraining challenge of a limited budget, however, partly owing to inadequate contributions from member States.

8. In the present report, the activities of IDEP throughout 2023 are presented, offering a comprehensive overview of the Institute’s core functions, in particular its primary mandate of training officials responsible for economic management and development planning in member States. The Institute’s financial status is analysed in the report, emphasizing the results of the evaluation of its 2019–2023 strategic plan. The report concludes with an outline of the anticipated prospects for 2024.

II. Contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union

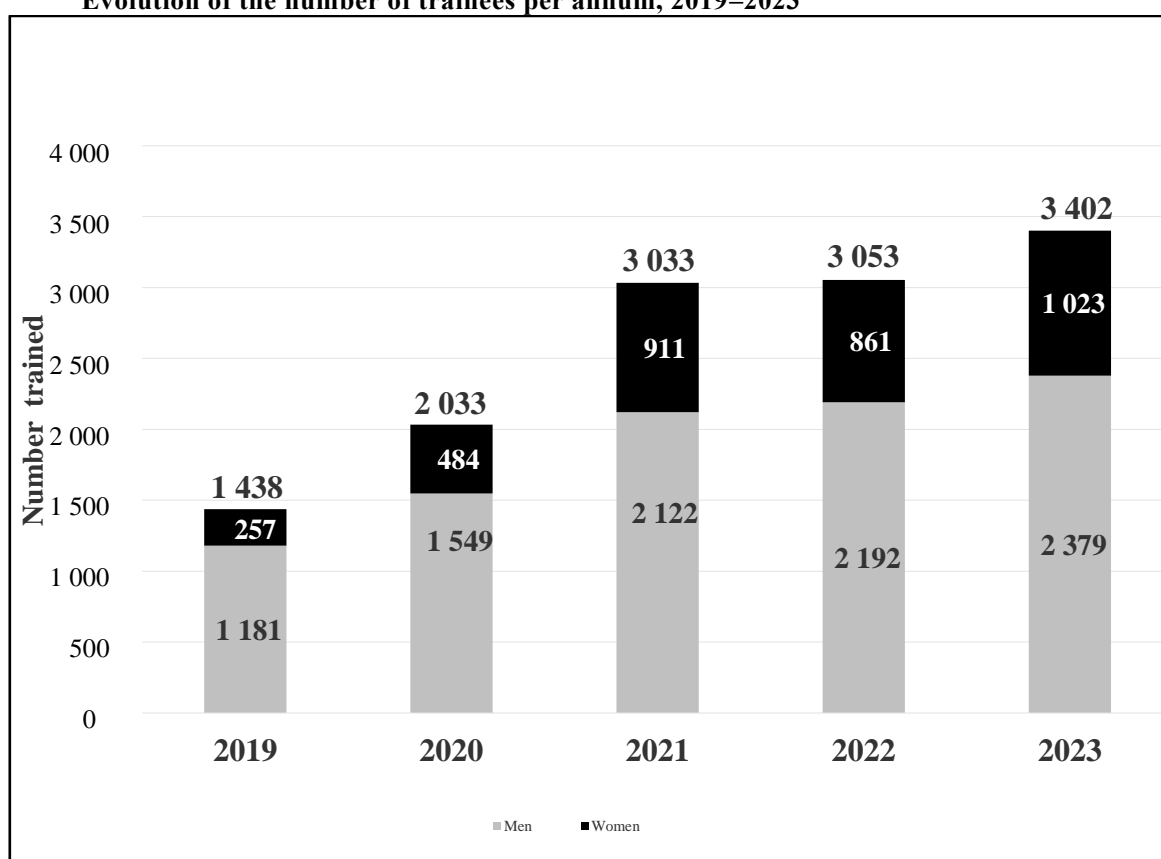
A. Training

9. The training provided by IDEP is aligned with national, regional and international development agendas, with a focus specifically on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. IDEP courses are aimed at equipping participants with the necessary skills for formulating, planning, implementing and managing risk-sensitive development policies. This includes understanding the development processes, building resilience, actively participating in the global economy, enhancing fundamentals, involving various stakeholders – in particular those from the private sector, mobilizing sufficient resources and translating economic gains into improved well-being for all citizens equitably and sustainably, ensuring that no one is left behind.

10. As shown in figure I, IDEP conducted a total of 69 training activities, delivered in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese. These initiatives strengthened the capacity of an estimate 3,402 government officials and other stakeholders, including 1,023 women, from 52 countries. The training sessions

were organized around four clusters of course offerings, focusing respectively on: macroeconomic development and planning; regional integration; social development; and integrated natural resource management. It was revealed through the findings of an impact assessment survey, which were supported by tangible evidence, that 75 per cent of surveyed public officials had applied the knowledge, skills and tools acquired during the training sessions to positively influence socioeconomic policies in their respective countries. The use of e-learning, hybrid, tailor-made and face-to-face channels contributed to the success of these training programmes.

Figure I
Evolution of the number of trainees per annum, 2019–2023



11. IDEP continued to emphasize the mainstreaming of risk analysis and risk management in development planning. To this end, four bilingual capacity development training sessions were conducted, with a focus on mainstreaming risk management in policy planning and development. These sessions have increased participants' understanding of risk, uncertainty and vulnerability, illustrated with specific examples from various global crises. Participants improved their skills in devising equitable and inclusive risk management strategies closely linked to coherent planning and financing mechanisms to ensure effective implementation. Recognizing the importance of robust risk mitigation strategies to reduce the potential impact of shocks and enhance preparedness for unforeseen events, IDEP underscores the significance of building resilient economies. One notable achievement is the work of an alumnus from the Niger who applied the acquired skills to contribute significantly to the formulation of a housing and cropland flood protection programme in that country. This alumnus was pivotal in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of anti-erosion measures concerning river walls and other flood control systems.

12. Considering the multiple crises affecting the lives of people around the world, and the uncertainties that could impede development agendas, IDEP organized an online course on strategic foresight. The overall aim of the course was to build participants' capacities in strategic foresight and systems dynamics

modelling, so as to provide the continent with visionary frameworks for its future in an increasingly uncertain context. The course is the first in a series aimed at equipping policymakers with appropriate skills and knowledge to identify emerging issues, tackle uncertainties, articulate scenarios, develop a common vision of the desired future, introduce innovation and design robust policies and strategies, often despite limited resources and a complex environment. A total of 268 participants benefited from the course, including 52 women.

13. During the reporting period, IDEP trained 348 officials from 41 member States on how to mainstream a gender perspective in economic policies for improved public sector management and development planning. As many as 99 per cent of the trainees were convinced that the capacity acquired would be useful in their work. The trainees produced 14 policy briefs on gender budgeting, access to finance and unpaid care work. In addition, the skills of 66 women entrepreneurs and leaders were enhanced, to enable them to take advantage of the opportunities made available through the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

14. IDEP continued to build and reinforce partnerships with capacity development institutions on the continent and in other global regions. To this end, it organized the third session of a training programme with the National Institute of Public Administration of Malaysia and the technical cooperation programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. During that session, 21 African officials benefited from the experience of Malaysia regarding the role of governments in balancing rapid economic expansion with social and human advancement in the implementation of sustainable development planning and management. The cooperation programme was launched in 2019 and has enhanced the capacities of 61 high-level African officials, who have learned from the experience of Malaysia regarding sustainable development, planning, public policy analysis and evaluation.

15. IDEP has resumed face-to-face training following the interruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the reporting period, it delivered a number of face-to-face training courses, as illustrated in table 1.

Table 1
Face-to-face training courses delivered during the reporting period

<i>Subject of training session</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>
Gender, trade and development within the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area, for the Senegalo-Gambian Network of Women Entrepreneurs and Leaders	13–17 March	Dakar	Gambia, Senegal
Gender-responsive economic policy management within the context of the post-pandemic recovery	8–12 May	Dakar	Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe
Enhancement of electricity market regulation for improved private sector investment participation in electricity markets (held in French)	11 and 12 October		Algeria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia
Export modalities within the African Continental Free Trade Area, for Mauritanian officials	16–20 October	Nouakchott	Mauritania

<i>Subject of training session</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>
Sustainable infrastructure development in the fostering of economic growth, social inclusion and environmental preservation across African member States	20–30 November	Dakar	Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Financing of sustainable development	19–23 November	Cairo	Libya
Sustainable development planning, for Libyan officials from the Ministry of Planning	12–15 December	Tunis	Libya

B. Research

16. During the reporting period, IDEP continued to engage in agenda-setting and innovative policy research. Through high-level policy dialogues, development seminars and fellowship programmes, IDEP derives strategic guidance for the design of its courses, which is used to ensure that course content is updated and adapted in accordance with changes in the operating environment.

17. In this regard, 600 government officials and other stakeholders participated in the following seven analytical research activities to share knowledge and advocate public policies to address the constraints hindering acceleration towards fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and to reflect on the renewal of development planning with the aim of strengthening the link between development research and policy action:

(a) In May 2023, a high-level round-table dialogue was jointly organized with the African Group of Ambassadors in Dakar to commemorate Africa Day, with the theme “The African Continental Free Trade Area and the Single Africa Air Transport Market.” The dialogue was aimed at providing insights into the implementation status of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and of the Single Africa Air Transport Market, reflecting on challenges, progress achieved and future prospects. The event, attended by 100 participants, including 60 online participants, explored the role of the air transport sector in enhancing the achievements made under the Agreement;

(b) In July 2023, a seminar was organized in collaboration with the Regional Leadership Centre of the Young African Leaders Initiative in Dakar, aimed at reinforcing the knowledge of 23 young African leaders about the opportunities made available through the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area;

(c) In October 2023, 50 participants attended a development seminar on the topic of revisiting fiscal policies when managing risk to build resilience, held online, during which they reflected on appropriate fiscal policies that would enable Governments to anticipate future shocks while staying on track in their pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. The seminar provided an opportunity for academic and government experts to discuss how fiscal policies could be better used to achieve the difficult balance between the need to respond to shorter-term shocks and the need to take measures to build more resilient economies;

(d) In November 2023, two high-level events, attended by 200 participants, were organized in Addis Ababa to mark the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of IDEP. The first was a high-level conference on the theme “Renewal of development planning: learning from 60 years of practice in Africa and shaping the future”. The conference provided a framework for senior government officials, senior development policy and planning officials, development thinkers and researchers, representatives from international organizations and diplomats from across Africa to stress the importance of strong political commitment regarding national priorities, leadership, development coordination and accountability for results as the cornerstone of

effective development planning. The second was a special event held during the African Economic Conference on the theme “Leveraging on strategic foresight for an agile, robust and forward-looking sustainable industrial development in Africa”, which provided an opportunity for further consideration of the issues explored during the sixtieth anniversary of IDEP, focusing on the need for the better coordination of policy planning for sustainable industrial development and the shaping of a better future;

(e) In November and December 2023, two online development seminars were conducted, leveraging the framework of the ECA Young Economists Network. At the first seminar, participants explored the impact of digitalization on the social and financial performance of microfinance institutions, emphasizing its role in promoting financial inclusion. The second seminar featured a presentation by a young economist on the interplay between elections, budgets and human development in Africa. At that event, concerns were raised about the potential negative impact on human development of elevated electoral expenditures and a platform was provided for knowledge-sharing and collaborative research planning within the framework of the ECA Young Economists Network.

C. Fellowships

18. IDEP continued to contribute to the capacity-building efforts of member States and to the promotion and strengthening of intra-African knowledge-sharing and mutual learning through its fellowship programme, through which it also reinforced its partnerships with various divisions of ECA, planning institutions, specialized government agencies, international organizations, universities and research centres. In August 2023, one ECA fellow joined IDEP from Zambia to work on the determinants of sovereign credit ratings in Africa.

D. Knowledge resource centre

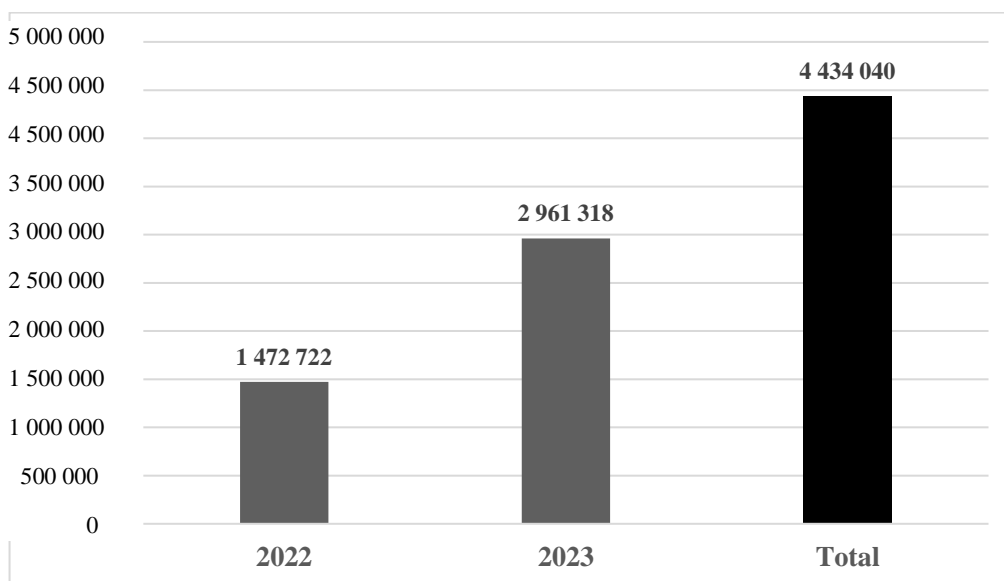
19. The IDEP knowledge resource centre continued its core mission of meeting the needs of the Institute’s training and research programmes. This was achieved by sharing information and providing documentation services to trainees, faculty members, conference participants, researchers, visiting academics and Governments.

20. During the period under review, the centre added 127 records to its collection, bringing the total to 23,632 records, of which 9,287 were accessible in full text. It recorded nearly 3 million downloads of full-text documents by 1 December 2023, doubling the nearly 1.5 million downloads recorded during the same period in 2022 (see figure II).

21. The centre continued to serve the Institute’s users, mainly course participants and fellows, through online and remote services. The library provided annotated bibliographical materials in English and French, continuing to support research and distance learning.

22. In addition, the centre initiated and ran an innovative online course on data literacy, specifically designed for African librarians and information professionals. Through that course, the centre provided in-depth training aimed at building participants’ capacity in data management, highlighting the importance of mastering big data in the contemporary information context. The course received a positive response, demonstrating the ongoing commitment of IDEP to promoting excellence in information management in Africa.

Figure II
Downloads of documents from the digital library



III. Main findings of the evaluation of the IDEP strategic plan 2019–2023

23. During the period under review, an external evaluation of the Institute's strategic plan for the period 2019–2023 was led by the Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division of ECA. The ratings assigned to IDEP programmes during the evaluation were as follows: 88 per cent for relevance; 85 per cent for quality; 84 per cent for effectiveness; and 83 per cent for efficiency. IDEP was found to have an 86 per cent competitive advantage in training, and it received an 84 per cent rating for the tangible benefits of its programmes in attaining the knowledge, skills and competencies required for primary tasks in economic planning and an 82 per cent rating for the specific outcomes of its programmes, measured by improved work performance, understanding and knowledge of economic planning processes and models and the quality of national development plans. As many as 97 per cent of major stakeholders who had participated in IDEP programmes said that they would like to attend other such programmes, while 98 per cent would like IDEP to continue providing training courses. Similarly high ratings were also assigned to other programme offerings by IDEP.

24. The main recommendations made during the evaluation were as follows:

(a) The next strategic plan should be guided by country-level capacity need assessments that went beyond the survey conducted with alumni, in consultation with subregional and continental institutions;

(b) The staffing capacity of IDEP should be enhanced on the basis of a thorough workload analysis;

(c) A full-time staff member should be hired for communications and outreach functions, effective immediately;

(d) IDEP should develop the following strategies and implementation guidelines, or update existing ones:

(i) Capacity-building strategy and operational guidelines;

(ii) Knowledge management strategy and operating system, with a focus on both explicit and tacit knowledge;

- (iii) Monitoring and evaluation strategy;
- (iv) Communication and outreach strategy;
- (v) Risk management strategy;
- (vi) Partnerships and resource mobilization strategy.

IV. Finance, human resource development and partnerships

A. Finance

25. The Institute's activities are financed by resources from four broad sources:

(a) Financial support from African member States through annual payments of assessed financial contributions, on the basis of a predetermined schedule that is approved and adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

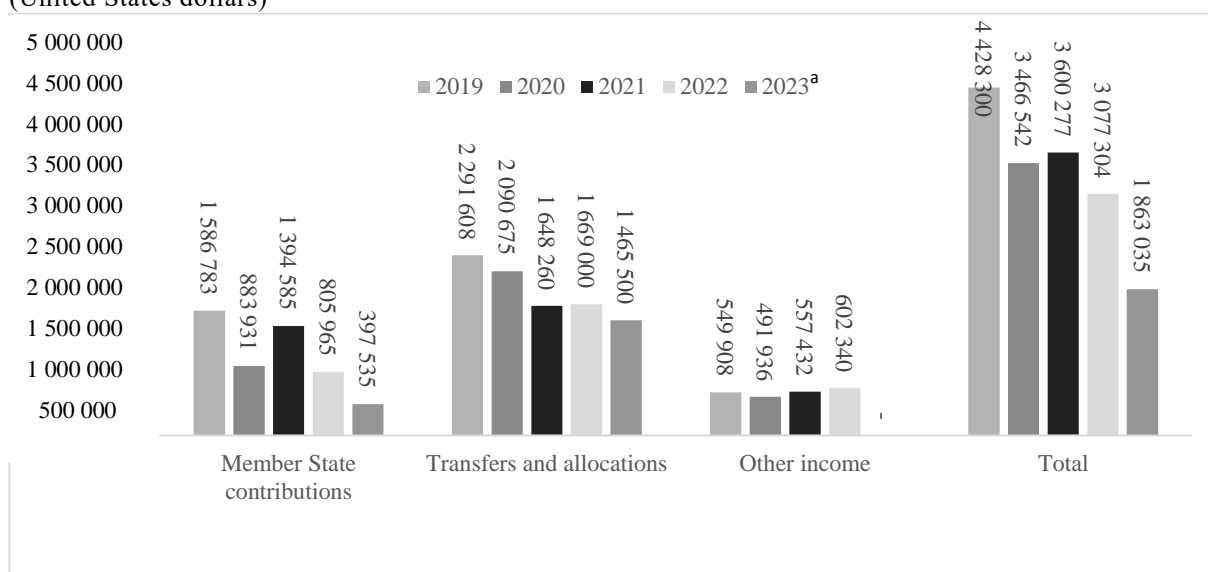
(b) A regular United Nations grant, which is currently a fixed annual subvention of \$1.4 million that is approved by the General Assembly and that underpins the approved annual programme budget;

(c) Resources from ECA to support specific programmes and training activities;

(d) Extrabudgetary funds from such sources as multilateral and bilateral funding institutions, private foundations and other development partners.

26. The amount of income generated between 2019 and 2023 is illustrated in figure III, broken down into three categories. The "member State contributions" category includes assessed contributions collected during the given year. The "transfers and allocations" category includes the United Nations grant and extrabudgetary support from ECA, while the "other income" category includes resources mobilized through external partners.

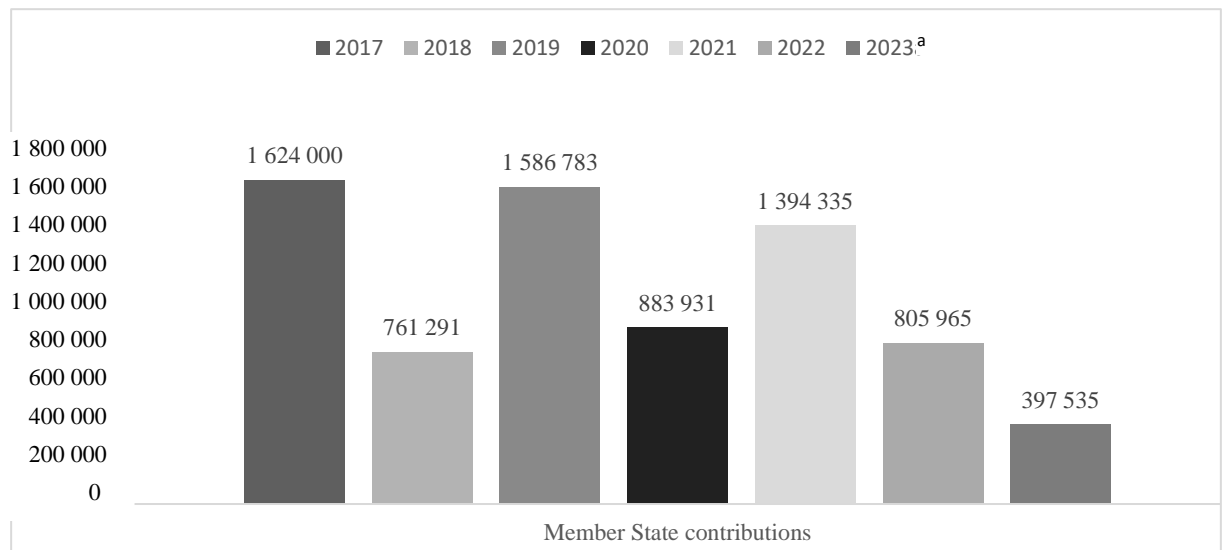
Figure III
Categories of income, 2019–2023
(United States dollars)



Note: The average annual budget of IDEP is \$3.3 million.

^a Figures for 2023 are interim figures.

Figure IV
Member State contributions, 2017–2023
 (United States dollars)



^a Figures for 2023 are interim figures.

27. In the fiscal year 2023, contributions from member States plummeted to an unprecedentedly low level (see figure IV). In 2024, for the first time in many years, IDEP will have to tap into its statutory reserve to meet the financial obligations associated with staff salaries and programmatic and operational activities. This situation necessitates a comprehensive reassessment of the funding sources and a proactive approach to ensure the sustained efficacy of IDEP initiatives.

28. IDEP extends its sincere appreciation to Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, the Sudan and Zimbabwe, whose contributions played a pivotal role in sustaining its operations throughout the fiscal year 2023. The contributions collected in 2023 are shown in table 2.

29. The arrears balance has risen from \$18.5 million as at 31 December 2022 to \$19.4 million in December 2023. This increase has a significant impact on the operational capacity of IDEP and poses a challenge to the successful performance of its mandate.

30. IDEP will continue to engage with member States regarding their contributions and is in discussions with the relevant authorities of countries with significant outstanding arrears.

Table 2
Contributions made during the reporting period by country, as at 31 December 2023
 (United States dollars)

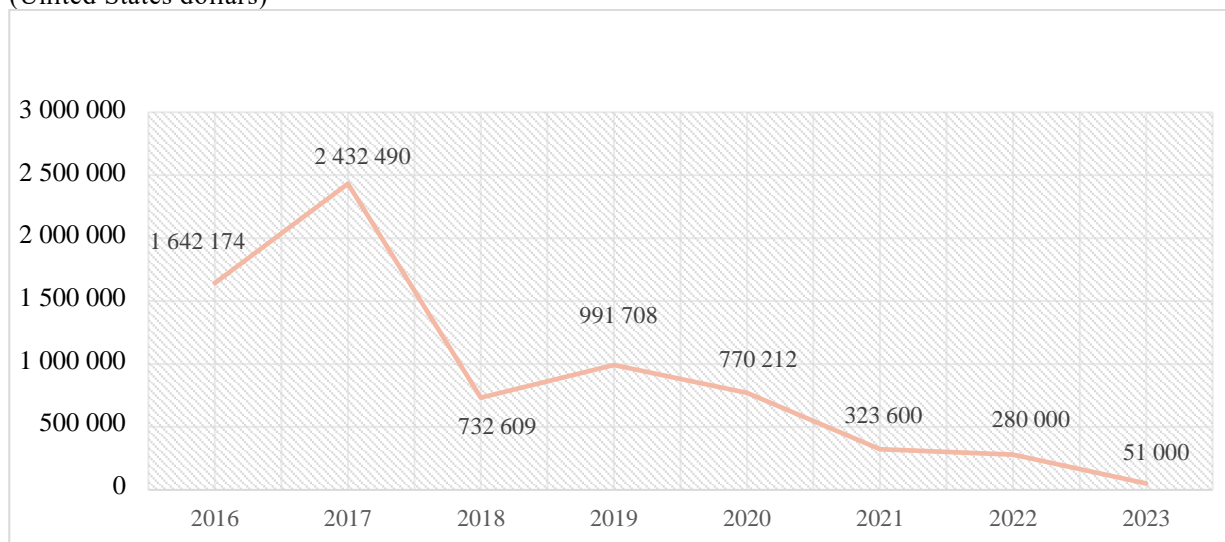
Index	Country	Annual assessed contribution	Annual contribution paid in 2023	Arrears paid	Total amount paid in 2023 ^a
1	Burkina Faso	15 000	0	30 000	30 000
2	Burundi	15 000	15 000	0	15 000
3	Kenya	32 000	32 000	59 722	91 722
4	Libya	80 000	0	80 813	80 813
5	Madagascar	20 000	20 000	0	20 000
6	Morocco	32 000	32 000	0	32 000
7	Namibia	24 000	24 000	24 000	48 000
8	South Africa	80 000	80 000	0	80 000
	Total	298 000	203 000	194 535	397 535

^a Figures for 2023 are interim figures.

31. As shown in figure V, financial assistance from ECA under the regular programme of technical cooperation has declined, from \$280,000 in 2022 to a mere \$51,000 in 2023. This substantial reduction further exacerbates the precarious financial state of the Institute.

Figure V

Extrabudgetary contributions from the Economic Commission for Africa, 2016–2023
(United States dollars)



32. IDEP has formally sought augmentation of the United Nations grant through resolution 2023/10 of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and resolution 2023/17 of the Economic and Social Council. This request is aimed at enhancing the predictability of the Institute's financial inflow, fortifying programme planning and optimizing service delivery.

33. As an integral part of the review of its strategic plan for the period 2019–2023, IDEP is committed to implementing valuable lessons learned and recommendations. Its focus is on enhancing and diversifying its funding base through intensified and targeted external resource mobilization initiatives. This forward-looking approach reflects the Institute's determination to adapt, grow and ensure sustained financial stability.

B. Human resources development

34. The post of Head of the Research and Training Division (P-5 level), a crucial position in IDEP, was filled on 1 April 2023.

35. As part of the continual initiative to strengthen the Institute's role as the training arm of ECA and to foster enhanced collaboration with ECA divisions, three training sessions were carried out with the Human Resources Management Section of ECA.

36. An online retooling course on data analytics was held from 30 May to 12 June 2023. Important aspects of data analysis were covered in that course, including the formulation of precise questions, effective data collection, thorough data cleaning, advanced data analysis techniques and meaningful interpretation of results. The course facilitators not only explored the nuances of analysing diverse data sets but also emphasized their relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. They skilfully refreshed participants' expertise in data analytics through hands-on practical applications. In total, 41 ECA staff members, including one IDEP staff member, successfully completed this valuable training course.

37. A retooling course on knowledge management was held from 26 September to 5 October 2023, through which participants were offered a comprehensive understanding of knowledge management services, covering fundamental concepts, processes and standards. During the course, clarification was provided about the expected level of engagement from staff members as knowledge workers with respect to fostering a culture of knowledge documentation, sharing and dissemination. A total of 40 ECA staff members, including 4 IDEP staff members, benefited from that training initiative.

38. A retooling course on digital technology skills for remote projects and client engagement was held from 28 November to 11 December 2023 and proved to be beneficial for 30 ECA staff members. An introductory overview of digital communications was provided, helping participants to become familiar with specific digital communication tools through practical lessons and assessments. The programme included hands-on exercises and case studies highlighting practical applications of useful digital tools in participants' daily professional lives.

39. The three above-mentioned courses enhanced the capacity of 111 ECA staff members, including 5 IDEP employees. This marks a substantial increase from 62 staff members in 2021 and 66 in 2022.

40. IDEP also strengthened its workforce's capabilities through specialized training initiatives, including sessions on knowledge management and competency-based interviews for panel members and retooling sessions on Umoja. More than 15 IDEP staff members benefited from these training programmes.

C. Partnerships

41. IDEP continued to foster and strengthen its partnerships with various ECA divisions, planning institutions, line ministries and departments, international organizations, regional economic communities, universities and research centres (see table 3). Through its activities, IDEP continued to promote capacity-building and to support constructive analysis and debate regarding the development policies of member States.

42. In 2023, activities were conducted with the following partners: ECOWAS, universities involved in the ECA Young Economists Network, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Resident Coordinator Office in Senegal, the Institute of National Planning of Egypt, the National Institute of Public Administration of Malaysia, the technical cooperation programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and the Songhai Centre in Benin.

Table 3

Partner categories

<i>Type of partners</i>	<i>Number of partners</i>
Entities of the United Nations system	5
Member States and regional economic communities	32
International organizations	7
Academic and research institutions	90
Total	134

43. The aforementioned partnerships resulted in the design and delivery of training and research programmes that were focused on:

- (a) Strategic planning, development policy and financing for development:
 - (i) Sustainable infrastructure development in the fostering of economic growth, social inclusion and environmental preservation across African member States (in collaboration with ECOWAS);
 - (ii) Financing of sustainable development, in partnership with the ECA Subregional Office for North Africa and the Institute of National Planning of Egypt;
 - (iii) Sustainable development planning for Libyan officials from the Ministry of Planning, within the framework of the agreement between ECA and the Ministry;
 - (iv) Sustainable development planning and management, in partnership with the National Institute of Public Administration of Malaysia and the technical cooperation programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia;
 - (v) Digital transformation of technical and vocational education and training and skills development systems in Africa, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the African Union, the African Development Bank and the Education 2030 Agenda;
- (b) Regional integration and trade:
 - (i) High-level round-table dialogue organized jointly with the African Group of Ambassadors in Dakar to celebrate Africa Day under the theme “the African Continental Free Trade Area and the Single African Air Transport Market”;
 - (ii) Export modalities within the African Continental Free Trade Area, for Mauritanian officials upon request from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Craft Industries and Tourism of Mauritania;
 - (iii) Gender, trade and development within the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area, for the Senegalo-Gambian Network of Women Entrepreneurs and Leaders, in partnership with the Regional Integration and Trade Division of ECA and with financial support from the European Union;
- (c) Social development:
 - (i) Gender-responsive economic policy management within the context of post-pandemic recovery, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme Regional Service Centre for Africa and UN-Women and with financial support from the Government of Canada;
 - (ii) Seminar organized in collaboration with the Regional Leadership Centre of the Young African Leaders Initiative in Dakar to reinforce knowledge of young African leaders of the opportunities made available through the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area;
- (d) Integrated natural resources management:
 - (i) Enhancement of electricity market regulation for improved private sector investment participation in electricity markets, in collaboration with the Private Sector Development and Finance Division of ECA and the Renewable Energy Solutions for Africa (RES4Africa) Foundation;
 - (ii) Empowerment of women and young people in agriculture in Africa in the context of the African Continental Free Trade Area, in

collaboration with the Regional Integration and Trade Division of ECA and the Songhai Centre.

V. Prospects for 2024

44. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed significant gaps in the coverage, comprehensiveness and adequacy of social protection systems. Closing these protection gaps, facilitating faster and more inclusive socioeconomic recovery and enhancing resilience against future shocks requires more investment in social protection. IDEP has been working to strengthen the capacity of member States to mainstream social services and social protection in development planning and economic analysis.

45. IDEP will continue to strengthen its interventions in this regard, integrating the social dimension of development agendas into its capacity-building programmes. In this regard, it will conduct assessments and consult with member States to identify specific aspects where knowledge and skills can be strengthened and will develop and deliver training modules on those aspects to policymakers, with a view to strengthening their capacity to integrate social protection into development planning. In doing so, IDEP will also collaborate with United Nations country teams and regional stakeholders.

46. Furthermore, to continue strengthening country resilience in the context of the ongoing uncertainties, IDEP will also focus on promoting foresight tools and on building capacities so as to equip policymakers and other stakeholders to efficiently map the future. This early warning and anticipatory planning will help countries to identify emerging issues, negotiate uncertainties, articulate scenarios, develop a common vision of the desired future and design robust policies and strategies.

47. To enhance the financial stability of IDEP and effectively address member States' requests for assistance, IDEP has advocated an increase in the United Nations grant. This initiative, stemming from recommendations made by the Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development in 2022, has come to fruition with the adoption of the Conference's resolution 2023/10 and of resolution 2023/17 of the Economic and Social Council.

48. Pending approval by the General Assembly of the recommendation in Economic and Social Council resolution 2023/17, IDEP is poised for significant advancements in 2024. This approval will improve the predictability of resources and enable the funding of six additional staff positions. Moreover, it will enable IDEP to offer training services online, create specialized interactive content and enhance the quality of training on macroeconomic modelling. This strategic move positions IDEP for robust and impactful operations in the coming years.

49. Notably, in the ninth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for 2023, the Advisory Committee recommends active engagement by the Secretary-General with Member States regarding arrears of contributions. This high-level involvement is envisioned as a strategic measure to enhance the collection of contributions and contribute significantly to the overall financial stability of the Institute. IDEP sets great store by the implementation of such recommendations, to strengthen its fiscal standing and sustain its mission.

Annex

Total contributions made since the establishment of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, by country, and balances due, as at 31 December 2023

(United States dollars)

<i>Index</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Current annual assessed contribution</i>	<i>Total assessed contribution</i>	<i>Total amount paid</i>	<i>Balance due</i>
1	Algeria	80 000	2 720 000	–	2 720 000
2	Angola	32 000	1 088 000	992 000	96 000
3	Benin	15 000	510 000	479 878	30 122
4	Botswana	24 000	816 000	–	816 000
5	Burkina Faso	15 000	510 000	495 000	15 000
6	Burundi	15 000	510 000	75 000	435 000
7	Cabo Verde	10 000	340 000	–	340 000
8	Cameroon	24 000	816 000	649 321	166 679
9	Central African Republic	15 000	510 000	16 761	493 239
10	Chad	15 000	510 000	88 851	421 149
11	Comoros	10 000	340 000	–	340 000
12	Congo	15 000	510 000	455 869	54 131
13	Democratic Republic of the Congo	32 000	1 088 000	–	1 088 000
14	Côte d'Ivoire	32 000	1 088 000	994 777	93 223
15	Djibouti	15 000	510 000	–	510 000
16	Egypt	80 000	2 720 000	2 480 000	240 000
17	Equatorial Guinea	10 000	340 000	260 000	80 000
18	Eritrea	15 000	435 000	–	435 000
19	Eswatini	20 000	680 000	568 770	111 230
20	Ethiopia	32 000	1 088 000	40 580	1 047 420
21	Gabon	20 000	680 000	40 000	640 000
22	Gambia	10 000	340 000	304 873	35 127
23	Ghana	32 000	1 088 000	954 600	133 400
24	Guinea	20 000	680 000	160 000	520 000
25	Guinea-Bissau	10 000	340 000	30 000	310 000
26	Kenya	32 000	1 088 000	1 088 000	–
27	Lesotho	15 000	510 000	465 000	45 000
28	Liberia	15 000	510 000	30 000	480 000
29	Libya	80 000	2 720 000	1 146 151	1 573 849
30	Madagascar	20 000	680 000	607 040	72 960
31	Malawi	15 000	510 000	405 000	105 000
32	Mali	15 000	510 000	495 000	15 000
33	Mauritania	10 000	340 000	30 000	310 000
34	Mauritius	15 000	510 000	–	510 000
35	Morocco	32 000	1 088 000	1 016 902	71 098
36	Mozambique	32 000	1 088 000	340 943	747 057
37	Namibia	24 000	768 000	744 000	24 000

<i>Index</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Current annual assessed contribution</i>	<i>Total assessed contribution</i>	<i>Total amount paid</i>	<i>Balance due</i>
38	Niger	15 000	510 000	24 975	485 025
39	Nigeria	80 000	2 720 000	2 290 331	429 669
40	Rwanda	15 000	510 000	180 000	330 000
41	Sao Tome and Principe	10 000	340 000	10 000	330 000
42	Senegal	24 000	816 000	719 480	96 520
43	Seychelles	10 000	340 000	300 000	40 000
44	Sierra Leone	20 000	700 000	640 055	59 945
45	Somalia	10 000	340 000	–	340 000
46	South Africa	80 000	2 320 000	960 000	1 360 000
47	Sudan	32 000	1 088 000	1 024 000	64 000
48	Togo	15 000	510 000	465 000	45 000
49	Tunisia	24 000	816 000	410 471	405 529
50	Uganda	24 000	816 000	692 971	123 029
51	United Republic of Tanzania	24 000	816 000	696 000	120 000
52	Zambia	32 000	1 088 000	1 056 000	32 000
53	Zimbabwe	40 000	1 360 000	1 280 000	80 000
	Total	1 358 000	45 669 000	26 203 599	19 465 401