



Economic Commission for Africa
Committee of Experts of the Conference of African
Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Statutory issues

Report on the follow-up to the resolutions of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

I. Introduction

1. The present report highlights the progress made in the implementation by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) of the resolutions adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at its meeting, held in Addis Ababa on 20 and 21 March 2023, during the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.
2. The Conference adopted 13 resolutions, which were submitted to the Economic and Social Council for review and endorsement. The progress made in the implementation of the resolutions that require action to be taken by the Commission is highlighted in the present report.

II. Progress made by the Commission

A. Resolution 2023/1: Enhancing energy security and ensuring a just energy transition in Africa

Paragraph 1

(a) Text

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with continental institutions, including the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency, the African Export-Import Bank and the African Development Bank, and with global entities such as Sustainable Energy for All, to support its members in the development of national energy transition plans inspired by the African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Transition;

(b) Progress

ECA, in collaboration with the World Resources Institute, Sustainable Energy for All, the African Union Commission and the African Energy Commission, is helping to establish a platform to facilitate the discussion of energy futures in Africa to assist African countries in developing evidence-based, action-oriented and inclusive narratives to inform the design of their

* E/ECA/COE/42/1.



energy transition plans. In collaboration with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), ECA is undertaking an assessment to provide guidance to the members of that regional economic community on energy transition strategies.

Paragraph 2

(a) Text

Also requests the Economic Commission for Africa, in partnership with the African Union Commission, to develop a continental energy security policy framework to guide its members.

(b) Progress

Following the submission by ECA and collaborating partners¹ of a technical paper on the development of a continental energy security policy framework, at the fourth ordinary session of the African Union Commission Specialized Technical Committee on Transport, Transcontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, and Energy, held in September 2023, the Committee members requested the development of such a framework and an energy security index and dashboard to track advancements in achieving energy security in Africa.

Paragraph 3

(a) Text

Further requests the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with its members, regional and national financial institutions and development partners, to mobilize the African private sector to invest in the continent's energy transformation and industrialization;

(b) Progress

In June 2023, ECA held a dialogue with representatives of the private and financial sectors, sovereign funds and the mining industry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on developing innovative financing mechanisms for special economic zones and promoting a special financial vehicle to support strong local content.

At the Global Africa Business Initiative, held on the margins of the high-level week of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly, ECA showcased the potential of the battery and electric vehicle initiative to play a role in the energy transition and the implementation of the net-zero global agenda, foster resource-driven industrialization and economic diversification, and expand exports and intra-African trade through the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, with the aim of creating prosperity and jobs for people in Africa.

In September 2023, ECA organized a side event at the Global Energy Interconnection Conference, held in Beijing, to introduce major energy and infrastructure projects to Chinese investors. In addition, during the World Investment Forum, held in Abu Dhabi in October 2023, ECA introduced potential investors to important opportunities in public-private partnership energy projects in selected African countries.

Paragraph 4

(a) Text

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to support its members in their low-carbon transition, including the development of green hydrogen, e-mobility and digitalization as important elements of the just and equitable energy transition agenda, and to put in place measures to strengthen regional cooperation to enhance both energy access and the energy transition;

(b) Progress

ECA is supporting the formulation of a national plan for the development of economic and environmental accounting in Cameroon. In addition, ECA has commissioned a study on the development of green hydrogen in Africa, in which the main requirements and constraints, including in the energy and mobility sectors, will be analysed. The study is aimed at supporting

¹ African Union Commission, African Union Development Agency, African Energy Commission, African Development Bank and regional power pools.

a low-carbon transition that is based on green hydrogen, promoting regional cooperation and advancing progress towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 7.

Paragraph 5

(a) Text

Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to support its members in developing institutional and human capacity with a view to fostering just energy transitions, promoting clean energy investments, addressing energy insecurity on the continent and harnessing new opportunities arising from the development of green hydrogen for the benefit of their people.

(b) Progress

In October 2023, ECA helped to build the capacity of 15 energy regulatory experts and policymakers (2 women and 13 men) from eight West and North African countries.² The training introduced experts to planning software for regulatory environment analysis and reform, which supports the identification of policy and regulatory gaps that should be closed to achieve the effective participation of private sector investors in the development of energy infrastructure.

In addition, ECA, in collaboration with Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the University of Namibia and the Open Tools, Integrated Modelling and Upskilling for Sustainable Development Community, organized the fourth Energy Modelling Platform for Africa, which was held in April 2023, to improve the modelling capacity of States to inform the development of national energy transition plans and the implementation of climate action.

B. Resolution 2023/2: Data and statistics

Paragraph 8

(a) Text

Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa and international organizations to support countries in conducting the surveys required for the rebasing of national accounts;

(b) Progress

In October 2023, ECA organized a regional seminar for 140 experts, 20 of whom attended in person and 120 online, from 33 African countries and seven international and regional organizations to build their capacity to improve the quality and availability of the required inputs for the continued production and dissemination of trade in value added indicators. The seminar helped to educate the experts in conducting the surveys required for the rebasing of national accounts and resulted in a consensus on the format, design and content of the survey questionnaires. In addition, ECA supported five countries in developing satellite accounts to improve the analytical capacity of national accounting.³

In Cameroon, ECA is supporting the formulation of a national plan for the development of economic and environmental accounting to facilitate the regular production of statistics on natural capital to bring the natural assets of the country into the national economic accounts. In Ethiopia and Uganda, ECA supported the creation of tourism satellite accounts, and, in Mozambique, ECA assisted in building the capacity of policymakers to use the methodology of the International Merchandise Trade Statistics Manual in regularly updating formal merchandise trade statistics databases and harmonizing the data on trade statistics produced by various institutions in the country.

² Algeria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia.

³ Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia, and Uganda.

C. Resolution 2023/3: Digital transformation for a secure, inclusive and sustainable common future

Paragraph 1

(a) Text

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa, working with relevant partners, to continue to support its members in their efforts to achieve digital transformation objectives, including, in particular, the development of governance mechanisms and policies for secure, inclusive and affordable digital access, and to develop frameworks that protect digital rights, such as data and privacy rights;

(b) Progress

In May 2023, on the margins of the augmented general meeting of Identity for All in Africa, held in Nairobi, ECA organized a regional stakeholder workshop on digital identity and disruptive technologies in Africa, to establish a road map for African Governments to use in implementing policy guidelines for digital identity systems aligned with the digital transformation strategy of the continent. Using digital trade integration data from 29 countries on the continent, ECA conducted a study on the digital trade regulatory framework of Africa, which provided empirical evidence on the impact of the regulatory regime on digital trade flows.⁴ In the study, policy areas are highlighted that show the high potential associated with enabling digital trade. In addition, ECA conducted a study on leveraging digitalization to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment across Africa. The report provides an overview on the progress of seven African States⁵ with regard to digitalization and includes examples of the ways in which information and communications technology can drive development and create opportunities, in particular for women.

Paragraph 2

(a) Text

Urges the Economic Commission for Africa to enhance the capacity of its members to harness emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, robotics, the Internet of things, nanotechnology, biotechnology, blockchain and 5G, among others, while also ensuring appropriate governance, regulation and safety;

(b) Progress

ECA is supporting the formulation of an artificial intelligence strategy for Africa to build inclusive environments for that technology and is further supporting its members in harnessing emerging technology. ECA is helping the Government of Rwanda to establish an African centre of excellence for science, technology, arts and mathematics, which is expected to strengthen education in those subjects by introducing practical development programmes for schoolchildren. In September 2023, ECA supported the capacity-building of 83 policymakers and representatives of civil society and academia in Lesotho, Seychelles and South Africa in gender and digitalization, with the aim of building a critical mass of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, with a particular focus on digital upskilling.

Paragraph 3

(a) Text

Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to enhance the capacity of its members, the private sector, civil society and academia to contribute to the advancement of a United Nations global digital compact by participating in digital governance processes openly, transparently and collaboratively;

⁴ See Economic Commission for Africa, *Digital Trade Regulatory Environment: Opportunities for Regulatory Harmonization in Africa* (Addis Ababa, 2023).

⁵ Lesotho, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa and Tunisia.

(b) Progress

In July 2023, ECA organized the Forum of the Future, held in Cape Town, South Africa, to incorporate the African perspective into the global digital compact with the aim of achieving a more inclusive and equitable digital future. In September and October 2023, at the African Internet Governance Forum, held in Abuja, and the Internet Governance Forum, held in Kyoto, Japan, respectively, ECA consulted with stakeholders on the technical recommendations arising from the Forum of the Future. The African input was submitted to the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology in October 2023.

Paragraph 4**(a) Text**

Urges the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to support the implementation of the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa 2020–2030 of the African Union, with a view to fostering an integrated and inclusive digital society and economy that improves the quality of life of African citizens;

(b) Progress

ECA is helping five countries⁶ to develop digital strategies, legal and regulatory regimes, tools and applications. In Ethiopia and the Gambia, ECA is supporting the creation of a national digital identity system and associated services and, in Nigeria, it is supporting the National Pension Commission with the implementation of a digital identity use case in Kaduna State to enable retirees to validate their eligibility for online pension payments. In Botswana, ECA is supporting the roll-out and implementation of SmartBots, the country's digital transformation strategy.

Paragraph 5**(a) Text**

Also urges the Economic Commission for Africa to further the undertakings of the Lomé Declaration on cybersecurity and fight against cybercrime and to continue to work with its members in sharing best practices and building capacity in relation to digital governance objectives that are aimed at achieving a secure, inclusive and sustainable digital transformation for Africa.

(b) Progress

ECA conducted a study on cybersecurity for development in the fourth industrial revolution, highlighting the significance of prioritizing national cybersecurity maturity in order to enhance gross domestic product per capita and overall national economic development. In September and October 2023, the study was presented on the margins of the African Internet Governance Forum, held in Abuja, and at the Internet Governance Forum, held in Kyoto, respectively, to more than 300 multi-stakeholders from various countries, including Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa. Within the framework of a memorandum of understanding with the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise, ECA will support its members in strengthening their capacity in cybercrime and cybersecurity in line with the Lomé Declaration.

D. Resolution 2023/4: Accelerating sustainable development through regional integration and trade**Paragraph 1****(a) Text**

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa, in close collaboration with the African Union and its organs, to formulate regional strategies for the development of major regional value

⁶ Botswana, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mauritius and Nigeria.

chains and to support African countries in mainstreaming the strategies in their national policy frameworks and accelerating the implementation of those strategies;

(b) Progress

ECA provided technical advisory services to the private sector and States parties to the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area on the development of a five-year continental strategy on building regional value chains for the textile and apparel sector in Africa. In addition, ECA conducted two studies on regional value chains and the informal sector in Guinea-Bissau to inform strategies to support the formalization of the sector.

Paragraph 2

(a) Text

Also requests the Economic Commission for Africa to assist its members in considering the adoption of policies that accelerate sustainable industrialization and economic diversification and, in particular, to facilitate domestic production, including of high-quality pharmaceuticals, motor vehicles and agricultural products, and the addition of value in the minerals sector and in other sectors, by leveraging the competitive advantage of its members to reduce the region's external dependence;

(b) Progress

ECA provided technical support for the establishment of a common agro-industrial park on the border of Zambia and Zimbabwe, a transboundary next-generation special economic zone, to promote the development of regional agricultural value chains. In May 2023, ECA presented the road map and action plan for the park at an agriculture investment forum, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, held in Harare. In July 2023, ECA published a policy brief on special economic zones, providing policy recommendations to achieve inclusive industrialization and economic transformation by ensuring that such zones are effective.

Paragraph 4

(a) Text

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to work with partners, including the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the African Export-Import Bank, the regional economic communities and other multilateral bodies, to assist African countries in reviewing and operationalizing their industrial and economic diversification policies and in building resilience to external shocks through holistic strategies;

(b) Progress

ECA provided technical support to Malawi and Zimbabwe in the review of their national industrial policies to promote economic diversification, green and inclusive industrialization and the development of regional value chains, and to build resilience. It provided technical assistance to Zimbabwe in the development of local content thresholds for the pharmaceutical, fertilizer and packaging sectors.

Paragraph 5

(a) Text

Also requests the Economic Commission for Africa to work jointly with the United Nations Development Programme, the African Development Bank, the African Export-Import Bank, the regional economic communities, the United Nations country teams and regional coordinators, the African Union Commission and the secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area in supporting African countries in the successful implementation of their national strategies for the Area to enable them to consolidate, diversify and expand exports within Africa.

(b) Progress

ECA supported the formulation of a national trade policy in Namibia and is providing technical support to Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe in conducting studies on cotton and textiles, and wood and paper, aimed at identifying regional green value chain opportunities through the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

E. Resolution 2023/5: Accelerating food systems transformation in Africa

Paragraph 1

(a) Text

Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to provide technical support to its members to develop regional agricultural value chains and agro-industrial parks to promote industrialization and economic diversification, in accordance with guidelines for the development of regional agricultural value chains in Africa and the common African agroparks programme of the African Union;

(b) Progress

ECA has developed guidelines for agropole development in Africa within the framework of the common African agroparks programme of the African Union, informed by findings from five regional assessments and underpinned by 14 illustrative country case studies. The guidelines were submitted to the African Union Commission Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment for endorsement in November 2023.

Paragraph 2

(a) Text

Also calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and other stakeholders, to explore ways to support the implementation of national food and agriculture compacts by members of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(b) Progress

In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ECA is implementing a six-year programme within the framework of the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel to support the acceleration of food systems transformation in the Sahel region. In addition, ECA has conducted a study to analyse the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the crisis in Ukraine and climate change on the performance of the agricultural sector in Rwanda.

Paragraph 3

(a) Text

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to develop the capacity of its members to improve the business environment for responsible investment in food systems, with an emphasis on the promotion of youth and women's entrepreneurship, in line with the guiding principles on large-scale land-based investments in Africa of the African Union, the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa.

(b) Progress

ECA conducted a study on the gender dimension of the COVID-19 impact mitigation programme in Guinea, with a focus on access to land ownership and women's participation in food security and agribusiness, which resulted in recommendations for mainstreaming gender in relevant programmes.

F. Resolution 2023/6: Climate finance mobilization to accelerate a green recovery

Paragraph 4

(a) Text

Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to provide technical and substantive support for carbon certification and accreditation processes to its members that are interested in access to carbon credit markets, by building on the regional registry developed for the members of the Congo Basin Climate Commission.

(b) **Progress**

ECA is providing technical support to Zambia to establish emission baselines and elaborate other essential components outlined in the harmonized protocol of the Congo Basin Climate Commission to facilitate access to carbon credits markets. In Sao Tome and Principe, ECA is supporting the use of alternatives to chemicals in smallholder farming to help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

G. Resolution 2023/7: Advancing the sustainable debt coalition initiative in Africa and beyond

Paragraph 1

(a) **Text**

Urges the Economic Commission for Africa to advocate, promote dialogue on and mobilize support for the development and operationalization of the newly launched sustainable debt coalition initiative in Africa and beyond;

(b) **Progress**

ECA supported dialogues at global forums to promote the main proposals of the sustainable debt coalition initiative, including on the margins of the spring and annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, held in April and October 2023, the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, held in Paris in June 2023, and the Africa Climate Summit, held in Nairobi in September 2023. As a result, creditors, including France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the World Bank, and sovereign debtors, including Cabo Verde, Egypt and Rwanda, have endorsed the proposals, including those associated with debtor-defined key performance indicators, sustainability-linked bonds, climate-resilient debt clauses, the sustainable budgeting approach and debt-for-climate swaps.

ECA presented the sustainable debt coalition initiative to policymakers from Cameroon, Chad, the Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan and Zambia during workshops on debt management and debt statistics for effective debt restructuring, held in April and September 2023, respectively, to raise awareness of the main proposals of the initiative and galvanize support among States.

Paragraph 3

(a) **Text**

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to provide technical assistance and capacity-building services to countries willing and eligible to participate in debt-for-nature swaps;

(b) **Progress**

ECA is conducting a study on the implementation of a debt-for-nature swap mechanism to support the identification, assessment and development of a strategy to finance climate action in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Paragraph 4

(a) **Text**

Also requests the Economic Commission for Africa to support the work of the sustainable debt coalition;

(b) **Progress**

ECA supported the sustainable debt coalition by maintaining communication with members of ECA and development partners and taking responsibility for organizing events, including technical support for the drafting of the governance charter and main reform proposals of the coalition. ECA supported the coalition in advocating the comprehensive reform of the global sovereign debt architecture to help developing countries to achieve their climate change goals. At the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, held in Paris in June 2023, the coalition highlighted the need to include climate contingency clauses, consider debt-for-nature swaps in all

new sovereign debt and adopt a sustainable budgeting approach to assist in tracking the alignment of fiscal decisions with climate change priorities.

Paragraph 8

(a) Text

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to provide technical assistance to enhance the capacity of countries to issue and manage green and blue bonds and bonds linked to Sustainable Development Goals, in order to scale up investment in climate adaptation actions and natural resource conservation.

(b) Progress

In support of the African Island States Climate Commission and to further implementation of the Great Blue Wall initiative, ECA, in collaboration with the Climate Commission, organized technical and expert group meetings in May 2023 to raise awareness of the modality for a regional blue bond and for blue carbon markets, with a view to scaling up investment in the blue economy and projects linked with Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, ECA, in collaboration with the development agency Financial Sector Deepening Africa, helped to build the capacity of policymakers, academics and representatives of non-governmental organizations and the private sector in Ghana to assess natural capital and deploy nature-based solutions to address climate change and scale up climate finance.

H. Resolution 2023/8: Great Blue Wall initiative

Paragraph 1

(a) Text

Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to support the expansion of the Great Blue Wall initiative to other areas of Africa;

(b) Progress

ECA has expanded support for the Great Blue Wall initiative to Cabo Verde and Sao Tome and Principe, increasing the number of States at which the initiative is targeted from 10 to 12. ECA supported the development of a funding proposal for the Green Climate Fund to help to develop a toolkit and platform for the assessment of hazards, vulnerability and risks in the context of climate resilience.

Paragraph 2

(a) Text

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to work in close collaboration with pan-African organizations and development partners to foster synergies to support African countries, to provide assistance with the implementation of the Great Blue Wall initiative and to assist in developing innovative financing mechanisms for the implementation of national blue economy strategies and the regional Great Blue Wall initiative;

(b) Progress

In May 2023, ECA, in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Indian Ocean Commission and the Centre de Compétences Changement Climatique (4C Maroc), supported the African Island States Climate Commission in developing a road map to assist the members of the Climate Commission to access sustainable finance through such initiatives as the Great Blue Wall. In June 2023, ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, supported the Blue Future Conference and facilitated the adoption of the Moroni Declaration for Ocean and Climate Action in Africa, which outlines the commitments of African island and coastal States in developing the blue economy and the Great Blue Wall initiative. In September 2023, at the Africa Climate Summit, held in Nairobi, African Heads of State and Government committed themselves to supporting the Great Blue Wall initiative.

I. Resolution 2023/11: African High-level Working Group on the Global Financial Architecture

Paragraph 3

(a) Text

Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to continue to provide guidance and technical support in the deliberations of the African High-level Working Group on the Global Financial Architecture;

(b) Progress

In collaboration with the African Peer Review Mechanism, ECA developed a capacity-building programme on sovereign credit ratings to improve the knowledge of African policymakers on the process, drivers, regulation and effective engagement of rating agencies and investors and the role of data in that domain.

Paragraph 4

(a) Text

Also calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to advocate and mobilize support for the reform of the special drawing rights rechannelling mechanism to promote greater utilization, so as to support countries that are most in need in addressing social, economic and environmental challenges, including the on-lending of special drawing rights to regional development banks to support African development financing priorities;

(b) Progress

In 2023, ECA convened five meetings of the African High-level Working Group on the Global Financial Architecture to advocate reform of special drawing rights and to strengthen the African voice on the global stage. In addition, ECA developed a policy brief on reforming the interest rate system for special drawing rights to incentivize reallocation, providing an overview of the current interest rate system and recommending actions for the reform of the system to boost utilization.

Paragraph 7

(a) Text

Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to support the extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative for two more years, with the rescheduling of deferred interest payments over five years, and to advocate its extension to middle-income countries upon request;

(b) Progress

ECA advocated the extension of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative in various forums, including, in August 2023, the African Conference on Debt and Development. In its advocacy efforts, ECA has highlighted the need to restructure the Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative to enable middle-income countries with unsustainable debt to be eligible to participate, the need for transparent timelines and the suspension of debt-service payments to expand fiscal space. In addition, ECA has drawn attention to the benefit of the African Union holding a permanent seat within the Group of 20, to facilitate African participation in discussions on the Common Framework. Furthermore, ECA has advocated the strengthening of the legal framework governing public debt, in particular through the inclusion of collective action clauses in all future sovereign-debt contracts.

Paragraph 15

(a) Text

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to assist countries and facilitate their issuance of green bonds, blue bonds and bonds linked to the Sustainable Development Goals in order to stimulate investment in climate adaptation actions and natural resources conservation;

(b) Progress

ECA is supporting two countries, Ethiopia and Uganda, in developing the required framework and infrastructure to facilitate the issuance of bonds, including green and blue bonds. In Ethiopia, ECA is supporting the development of a long-term strategy for the Ethiopian Securities Exchange to improve domestic resource mobilization. In Uganda, ECA is helping the country to conduct a diagnostic test on the local currency bond market to inform the formulation of a strategic plan aimed at improving resource allocation through the efficient channelling of local and foreign savings to domestic investment and diversified investment channels for retail and institutional investors.

J. Resolution 2023/13: Strengthening the cooperation between the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission to address development challenges in Africa

Paragraph 1

(a) Text

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to deepen its collaboration with the African Union Commission, its agencies and other pan-African institutions in undertaking joint activities, projects and programmes targeting African development priorities;

(b) Progress

ECA worked in partnership with the African Union Commission, its agencies and other pan-African institutions to advance work on illicit financial flows. ECA is collaborating with the African Union Commission to increase the number of focus countries that measure the extent of those flows through the effective application of statistical methodologies and the development of relevant policy measures. To date, 15 countries have been selected as focus countries.

Paragraph 2

(a) Text

Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to deepen coordination with the African Union by undertaking joint research, creating publications and providing technical support to countries, including on training and capacity development to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union;

(b) Progress

In 2023, ECA supported five of its members⁷ in digitalizing their national development plans and aligning them with Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals using the integrated planning and reporting toolkit. The alignment reports informed the evaluation of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063. Uganda recorded an improvement of 36 percentage points in the alignment of its third national development plan compared with that of its second national development plan. In October 2023, ECA supported a follow-up training session on the integrated planning and reporting toolkit in Ghana, focused on indicators and the sectoral plans of government ministries and departments. Through a two-year project jointly implemented with the African Union Commission and with funding from the Government of Italy, ECA is helping States in the Horn of Africa to shape a positive narrative and remove barriers to mobility.

Paragraph 3

(a) Text

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to enhance its support for and working relationship with the eight regional economic communities that are recognized by the African

⁷ Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho and Uganda.

Union and that constitute the building blocks for the creation of the African Economic Community, by addressing subregional challenges and priorities;

(b) Progress

ECA provided technical support to the Arab Maghreb Union in the development of a strategy to integrate the Union into the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area. In addition, ECA signed a memorandum of understanding with SADC to deepen collaboration on important areas of work, in particular implementation of the SADC Industrialization Strategy and Roadmap 2015–2063, and is supporting the East African Community in developing a blue economy strategy to drive the transformation of marine resources development in the subregion. Furthermore, ECA has prepared a comparative study on the vision documents of SADC, the East African Community and the Economic Community of West African States, with the aim of identifying important areas of convergence.

Paragraph 4

(a) Text

Calls upon the Economic Commission for Africa to work with the African Union in developing options to achieve the rapid economic recovery and sustained growth necessary for attaining the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in Africa;

(b) Progress

ECA supported the African Union in the evaluation of the first 10-year implementation plan 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 in Kigali and is expected to be adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2024.

In December 2023, ECA and the African Union held a high-level policy seminar under the theme “Towards an integrated Africa: Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 for the Africa that we want” in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, to review progress in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. During the seminar, participants also reviewed the joint work of the African Union and the United Nations in the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063, including the role of resident coordinators and United Nations country teams; the need to accelerate implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, recognized by some as a Marshall Plan for Africa; the governance deficits on the continent that lead to unconstitutional changes of Government; and the role of young people in emergency situations, governance and development.

ECA provided technical support to States in accelerating implementation of the road map of the African Union to harness the demographic dividend through investments in young people. ECA supported its members that have developed the demographic dividend monitoring index to establish budgeting frameworks that take into consideration the demographic dividend and to align the index with their functional budgets. In addition, technical support was provided to five members⁸ to undertake budget elasticity analyses on the required investment in young people and to integrate the results into the ongoing 2024 budgeting processes.

Paragraph 5

(a) Text

Requests the Economic Commission for Africa to enhance its partnership with the African Union Development Agency in the implementation of the African development agenda;

(b) Progress

ECA is collaborating with the African Union Development Agency on the conceptualization of a joint work programme for the extractives industry, in support of the Africa Mining Vision. In addition, ECA is collaborating with the Development Agency on the elaboration of the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Initiative, including

⁸ Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

through the provision of capacity-building and technical support for the development of community innovation surveys. Furthermore, ECA is collaborating with the Development Agency to accelerate investments in infrastructure development through the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa.

Paragraph 6

(a) Text

Encourages the Economic Commission for Africa to support the continent with strategic perspectives, thinking and foresight studies on how prosperity can be achieved in Africa by 2030 and how the process of attaining the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 can be accelerated.

(b) Progress

ECA has produced a perspective study entitled “Prosperous Africa 2030”, which is focused on the action that Africa must take to achieve prosperity by 2030, providing simulations of the economic growth trends that are needed to reach that objective. The report sets out the principal drivers and game changers that could accelerate attainment of the goals of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.
