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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Statutory issues

Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa on its twenty-eighth session

Note by the secretariat

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa has the honour to transmit to the members of the Commission the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa on its twenty-eighth session.

* E/ECA/COE/44/1.

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Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa on its twenty-eighth session

Introduction

1. The twenty-eighth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa was held in Niamey, in a hybrid format with both in-person and online participation, on 5 and 6 November 2025. The theme of the session was "Leveraging digital technology to enhance domestic resource mobilization in West Africa".

2. The session was attended by more than 100 participants, including representatives of the 15 members of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) that are served by the Subregional Office for West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.

3. The following entities of the United Nations system were represented: Resident Coordinator Office in the Niger, United Nations Development Programme.

4. Representatives of the following regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations were present: African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development, African Solidarity Fund, Central Bank of West African States, Economic and Statistical Observatory for Sub-Saharan Africa (AFRISTAT), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Bank for Investment and Development, Liptako-Gourma Integrated Development Authority, Niger Basin Authority, Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), West African Monetary Agency.

5. Observers were present from the following private sector networks and organizations, civil society organizations and universities: Compass Global Business Services, Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and Industry, National Association of Nigerian Traders.

I. Opening of the session [agenda item 1]

6. Opening statements were delivered by the Chair of the outgoing Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee, Cheikh Modou Thiam; the Director of the Subregional Office for West Africa of ECA, Ngone Diop; and the Special Adviser of the Prime Minister of the Niger, Hamma Hamadou, representing the host country.

7. Mr. Thiam reflected on the successful implementation of the recommendations that had been adopted during the twenty-seventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee, commending the Subregional Office for West Africa on its sustained efforts in delivering results to States amid a complex global context and prevailing structural constraints. He stressed the importance of collective engagement to ensuring inclusive, resilient and sustainable development across the subregion, and reiterated the continuing support of the outgoing Bureau to the incoming Bureau.

8. The Director of the Subregional Office for West Africa welcomed all participants and expressed appreciation to the outgoing Bureau for its guidance. She reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of ECA to supporting its members amid the current dire economic and financial context. Highlighting strengthened regional synergies, she noted that intergovernmental organizations and the Subregional Office were increasingly leveraging their

collective platform to respond to national challenges in a collaborative and timely manner across the clusters of development financing, climate change, data and statistics, and water and energy. She underscored that the ongoing global crisis presented an opportunity for innovative solutions that supported national pathways to economic transformation and sustainable development that left no one behind.

9. Mr. Hamadou officially opened the session. He framed the meeting in an international context marked by geopolitical tensions, soaring commodity prices and the lingering effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. He argued that strengthening domestic resource mobilization was crucial for safeguarding sovereignty and reinforcing the social contract with the general public, emphasizing that dependence on external financing had revealed the limits of such financing. He urged participants to engage actively in discussions on strategies for modernizing fiscal systems, taxing the digital sector and multinational enterprises, and establishing stronger regional synergies for combating illicit financial flows and expanding the tax base, in line with the theme of the session.

II. Election of the Bureau [agenda item 2]

10. The following countries were elected to form the new Bureau:

Chair:	Sierra Leone
Vice-Chair:	Gambia
Rapporteur:	Senegal

III. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work [agenda item 3]

11. A representative of the secretariat introduced the provisional agenda (ECA/SRO-WA/ICSOE/28/1) and the draft programme of work (ECA/SRO-WA/ICSOE/28/2). The Chair proposed, and the Intergovernmental Committee approved, amendments to both documents; the amendments had been circulated informally in advance of the meeting. The following agenda was then adopted, as amended:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of the Bureau.
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
4. Presentation and discussion on the theme “Leveraging digital technology to enhance domestic resource mobilization in West Africa”.
5. Recent economic and social conditions in West Africa: review of the subregional profile.
6. Review of the implementation of regional and international development agendas and special initiatives in West Africa.
7. Statutory issues: report on the activities of the Subregional Office for West Africa (October 2024–September 2025) and work programme for 2026.
8. Presentation of flagship initiatives of the Economic Commission for Africa.

9. Consideration and adoption of the draft recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa.

10. Date and venue of the next session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa.

11. Other matters.

12. Closing of the session.

IV. Presentation and discussion on the theme "Leveraging digital technology to enhance domestic resource mobilization in West Africa" [agenda item 4]

A. Presentations

12. A representative of the secretariat introduced the theme by highlighting the critical role of domestic resource mobilization in closing the financing gap for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. It was noted that, at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, a call had been made for countries to mobilize domestic public resources and harness them for sustainable development by strengthening fiscal systems, making such systems more progressive and ensuring effective revenue collection. The mobilization of domestic resources was hampered in West Africa by low tax coverage, weak tax administration, limited digital infrastructure, excessive tax incentives, illicit financial flows and fragmented coordination among the States of the subregion. The average ratio of tax to gross domestic product in the States members of ECOWAS was estimated at 14.4 per cent in 2022, which was below the continental average of 16.0 per cent.[1] Digitalization presented a transformative opportunity to improve domestic resource mobilization and some West African countries had demonstrated an interest in harnessing digital applications for that purpose. Recent evidence had shown that countries that had adopted mobile money technology had increased tax revenue by 12 per cent, on average.[2]

13. The Senior Director of Monitoring, Research and Planning at the National Revenue Authority of Sierra Leone, Philip Kargbo, shared the experience of his country in implementing an integrated tax administration system. He said that Sierra Leone was digitalizing tax administration in order to promote real-time cooperation; improve information management; enhance efficiency, effectiveness and trust; increase revenue; and reduce burdens on taxpayers. The process enabled the electronic filing of taxes and better compliance tracking. As a result, compliance rates had improved in recent years, in particular for pay as you earn, which had increased from 64 per cent in 2021 to 92 per cent in 2024 for large taxpayers. Greater transparency and accountability had led to improvements in taxpayer trust. Challenges to digitalization in Sierra Leone included vendor lock-in, limited capacity, data security, data quality and resistance to reforms. Change management, staff training, buy-in from senior management, a whole-of-government approach, pilot projects and integration with banks had been important elements of the digitalization process in his country and provided lessons from which other

[1] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, African Union Commission and African Tax Administration Forum, *Revenue Statistics in Africa 2024: Facilitation and Trust as Drivers of Voluntary Tax Compliance in Selected African Tax Administrations* (Paris, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2024).

[2] GSM Association, "Driving digital transformation of African economies: evidence and methodology document" (London, 2024).

countries could learn. Ongoing digital transformation efforts included the development of in-house systems, to avoid vendor lock-in, and enhancements to the interoperability of electronic government systems.

14. The Head of the Taxation Division of WAEMU outlined major projects in West Africa in the area of public finance management, including the harmonization of tax laws and the tax transition programme, aimed at strengthening domestic revenue mobilization to compensate for the decline in external taxation linked with trade liberalization under the common external tariff of his organization and ECOWAS. He said that other important initiatives included: the establishment of a digitalized tax management system; the interconnection of information systems for greater synergy; the introduction of an electronic invoicing system to optimize revenue collection; and the digitalization of procedures for registering deeds, issuing purchase receipts and conducting tax audits. Innovations in public finance management had yielded results in the digitalization of tax administration and payment systems, but challenges remained, including limited budget allocations to tax administrations, the large size of the informal sector, ineffective policies for enhancing tax collection and the lack of security in digital payment and registration systems.

B. Discussion

15. In the ensuing discussion, participants focused on reductions in corruption linked with the digitalization of payment systems and on the improved efficiency of tax collection, while also expressing concerns about possible job losses associated with the digitalization of tax operations. They highlighted the successful implementation of digital invoicing within States members of WAEMU, in particular Benin and the Niger, which had increased tax compliance on the part of private companies. In addition, participants emphasized the immensity of the informal sector in the subregion and the need to bridge the digital divide in order to leave no one behind.

16. The Intergovernmental Committee took note of the expansion of the digitalization of the economy, in particular the development of digital commerce, which contributed to the effectiveness of tax digitalization. Participants discussed the risks of excluding taxpayers in rural areas, which caused inequality that disadvantaged taxpayers in the formal sector in comparison with those in the informal sector, and cybersecurity risks in the tax digitalization process, despite the implementation of backup systems. Participants also emphasized the need for the informal sector to be better organized in order to contribute more effectively to tax revenue mobilization. They raised the issue of double taxation as a concern in public finance management in West Africa. In addition, participants discussed success stories from across Africa – such as the diaspora bond and other domestic contributions used for financing the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam – and Asia, and requested the secretariat to document such success stories and best practices.

V. Recent economic and social conditions in West Africa: review of the subregional profile [agenda item 5]

A. Presentation

17. A representative of the secretariat introduced insights from the report on the socioeconomic profile of the subregion (ECA/SRO-WA/ICSOE/28/4). It was noted that, although the growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) of the subregion of 4.2 per cent was among the highest on the continent, high inflation

of 19.2 per cent, the fiscal deficit of 4.2 per cent of GDP and public debt of 58.5 per cent of GDP remained challenges that were compounded by persistent insecurity, climate shocks and global uncertainty, which continued to threaten stability. The young population of West Africa could provide a demographic dividend that could be harnessed through investments in human capital and job creation. The informal employment rate of 91.6 per cent, gender inequality and rising food insecurity remained challenges. The average tax-to-GDP ratio had stood at 14.4 per cent in 2022, which was below the 15 per cent benchmark for sustained growth and underscored the need to modernize and digitalize tax systems, improve compliance and rationalize exemptions. Leveraging digital technology and artificial intelligence could transform domestic resource mobilization and enhance transparency. Innovative financing, including green and blue bonds, pensions, remittances, sukuk and debt-for-climate swaps, could provide new fiscal space for inclusive and sustainable development. Overall, digital technology and artificial intelligence were powerful enablers of transformation in West Africa, driving efficiency, innovation, investment in human capital and sustainable growth.

B. Discussion

18. In the ensuing discussion, participants highlighted the need to harmonize efforts at the national and subregional levels to strengthen domestic revenue mobilization. They emphasized the importance of investing in human capital and noted that addressing corruption and low levels of tax education and trust were essential to improving governance and fiscal performance. Tax exemptions must be rationalized to ensure that they remained economically justified and incentives could be introduced to promote voluntary tax compliance. The private sector had an important role to play in innovative financing mechanisms. Participants highlighted the thorny dilemma of promoting fiscal policy that was focused on supporting those living in poverty without compromising the effectiveness of tax mobilization. They discussed ways of attracting more foreign direct investment and its importance in financing infrastructure projects and sustainable development, calling for greater climate finance opportunities as examples of innovative financing mechanisms.

C. Beyond Gross Domestic Product initiative

19. As part of ongoing consultations relating to the High-Level Expert Group on Beyond Gross Domestic Product, the Director of the Subregional Office for West Africa introduced the Beyond Gross Domestic Product initiative, which had been included as an action in the Pact for the Future, adopted by the General Assembly in September 2024.[3] The initiative was intended to improve GDP as a measure of development by adding dimensions to it, but not replacing it, thus preserving public trust in the measure while clearly communicating its insufficiency on its own. The Secretary-General had established the High-Level Expert Group, which was consulting stakeholders, to propose a limited number of country-owned and universally applicable indicators of sustainable development that complemented and went beyond GDP and that were based on a holistic, people-centric framework composed of four foundational principles: well-being, sustainability, equity and inclusiveness. The High-Level Expert Group was using a systems approach and was building on work already done by other entities, including the Statistical Commission, and existing frameworks, such as the global indicators framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

[3] General Assembly resolution 79/1.

Development, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and adjusted net savings.

20. Participants proposed that the Beyond Gross Domestic Product initiative should have a multifaceted design that incorporated such dimensions as human capital and investment, which had catalytic effects on efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The success of the new measure could be hampered by inadequate data collection, however, which was one of the main challenges for countries in the subregion.

VI. Review of the implementation of regional and international development agendas and special initiatives in West Africa [agenda item 6]

A. Presentation

21. A representative of the secretariat introduced the findings set out in the report on progress made by West African States towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (ECA/SRO-WA/ICSOE/28/5), which was focused on Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17, in line with the theme of the 2026 high-level political forum on sustainable development, and Goals 1, 2 and 16, which were considered priorities in West Africa. It could be inferred from the findings that West Africa was making progress in the attainment of the Goals, but that the pace was too slow for them to be achieved by 2030. Persistent challenges, including poverty, food insecurity, security risks and climate shocks, continued to hinder progress. Access to clean energy and full electrification remained limited, impeding industrialization and affecting well-being in the subregion. Although there had been modest gains relating to water and sanitation, infrastructure deficits and data gaps continued to present challenges.

22. The representative of the secretariat then described the results of a simulation exercise that had been conducted in Guinea, Liberia, the Niger and Nigeria to demonstrate the ways in which improved domestic resource mobilization could be used as a tool to enhance efforts to achieve the Goals in West Africa, in particular Goals 6 and 7, on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, respectively. It was clear from the findings that achieving the recommended 15 per cent tax-to-GDP ratio could significantly advance attainment of the Goals in all West African countries. In Liberia, it would enable approximately 212,000 additional people to gain access to electricity and 23,000 additional people to gain access to basic sanitation. The largest impact would be in Nigeria, where some 24.5 million people would gain electricity access and 19.7 million people would gain access to basic sanitation. In Guinea, 2.3 million more people would gain access to electricity and 1.1 million more people would gain access to sanitation. In the Niger, 6.2 million people would gain access to electricity and 2.0 million people would gain access to sanitation. The results served to underscore the transformative potential of improved domestic resource mobilization for the achievement of the Goals.

B. Discussion

23. Participants expressed interest in learning more about the impact of debt on progress towards the achievement of the Goals in West Africa, in particular in relation to its role in financing investments that were focused on the Goals. They sought a deeper understanding of the role of economic digitalization, in general, and tax digitalization, in particular, in attaining the Goals. Lastly,

participants recommended that every future edition of the document currently known as the report on progress made by West African States towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals should incorporate an assessment of progress made in the achievement of the goals and aspirations set out in Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.

VII. Statutory issues: report on the activities of the Subregional Office for West Africa (October 2024–September 2025) and work programme for 2026

[agenda item 7]

A. Presentation

24. The Director of the Subregional Office for West Africa introduced the report on the activities of the Subregional Office (November 2024–September 2025) and work programme for 2026 (ECA/SRO-WA/ICSOE/28/6). She emphasized that, in line with the core think tank, convening and operational functions of ECA, the Subregional Office had structured its work in four strategic focus areas: demographic dividend for development; economic diversification and industrialization anchored in the African Continental Free Trade Area; macroeconomic stability and economic development planning; and climate change and digitalization. She highlighted significant achievements in the fulfilment of the Subregional Office's mandate to foster macroeconomic stability, inclusive growth and regional integration. They included enhanced domestic resource mobilization through tax reforms and fiscal diagnostics in Sierra Leone and Togo; the strengthened implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area in Nigeria through the empowerment of women and young people to leverage innovative tools for 12 top traded products; and the reinforcement of development planning in Liberia through the incorporation, using the integrated planning and reporting toolkit, of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 into the country's new national development agenda and through the adoption of the national agenda.

25. With regard to the demographic dividend, the Subregional Office had helped to introduce budgeting frameworks on the subject in Burkina Faso, the Niger, Senegal and Togo, which had contributed to the preparation of national budgets for the 2026 financial year, thus strengthening the alignment of resources with priorities pertaining to the demographic dividend. In addition, the Subregional Office had launched a regional digital monitoring platform and had trained national experts. In Cabo Verde, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria and Senegal, the Subregional Office had helped to develop or finalize national strategies, or aspects thereof, on the implementation of the Agreement. That included, in Guinea, the development of a trade in services strategy to unlock national export potential and support the country's Vision Simandou 2040 plan; in Nigeria, the development of intra-African market access tools – an export guide and e-commerce platform – for women and young entrepreneurs; and, in Cabo Verde, the development of a national strategy. Despite persistent global headwinds, the Subregional Office remained committed to sustainable development. The priorities of the 2026 programme would be debt management, the expansion of budgeting that is sensitive to the demographic dividend, enhanced climate finance action and stronger platforms for collaboration among United Nations entities and regional organizations.

B. Discussion

26. In the ensuing discussion, the Intergovernmental Committee commended the Subregional Office for its results and for its continued support to States amid ongoing global and regional challenges. A representative of the private sector acknowledged the sustained commitment of ECA to engaging with and supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, which were vital to the region's economic growth and job creation. High financial barriers, such as the cost of attending trade exhibitions, continued to be prohibitive for many such enterprises; therefore, participants encouraged ECA to change its focus from continuous training to tangible support, such as assistance for a limited number of enterprises to participate in exhibitions, followed by monitoring and mentorship. A representative of ECA reiterated the demand-driven approach of the Commission, citing the example of a request from Togo for support with GDP rebasing, to which ECA had responded. Participants emphasized that channelling resources into promoting human security and social protection and addressing people's needs would be more effective for achieving national security and stability than the current overspending on defence and intelligence.

VIII. Presentation of flagship initiatives of the Economic Commission for Africa [agenda item 8]

A. Presentation

27. Representatives of the secretariat introduced a study entitled *Personal Remittances and their Contribution to Sustainable Economic Development Financing in West Africa*,[4] which had been produced in response to a recommendation adopted during the twenty-seventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee, held in 2024. West Africa was the second largest recipient of remittances among all African subregions and Nigeria received 57.2 per cent of the remittances in the subregion. Listed in descending order of the amount of remittances that they received, Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali had each received more than $1 billion in 2023, demonstrating the huge potential of remittances for the financing of development if appropriate regulatory and institutional frameworks were established. An analysis at the macro level had been conducted, with a view to understanding the effect of remittances on financial development, household investment capacity, household consumption and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in addition to the effects of regulatory and institutional effectiveness on remittance inflows. It was clear from the findings that remittances received by households had a significant positive effect on investment and household consumption.

28. An analysis at the micro level had been undertaken in Ghana, with a view to investigating the effects of household remittances on the financing of the Goals. The findings suggested that remittances significantly contributed to the development of household participation in agricultural activities, renewable energy adoption and participation in the digital economy, through the use of mobile money or ownership of a bank account.

[4] ECA (forthcoming).

B. Discussion

29. In the ensuing discussion, participants focused on the contribution of remittances to the acceleration of sustainable development in West African economies, asserting that the total value of remittances sometimes surpassed that of foreign direct investment. The representatives of Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo described their national experiences, explaining that most remittances were used for consumption – in particular education, housing and services – rather than productive investments. However, participants stressed that, owing to macroeconomic linkages, increased consumption had a positive effect on economic growth, well-being and overall sustainable development. The Intergovernmental Committee emphasized the need for reliable data to assess the development impact of remittances, to inform planning and decision-making and to motivate diaspora communities to invest in their home countries.

30. Among the main issues raised were the high cost of money transfers; the widespread use of informal channels, owing to high fees; and the small amounts of remitted funds being invested in agriculture and small and medium-sized enterprises. Participants acknowledged the importance of cooperation among countries in the subregion to reduce the cost of transfers, improve the informal remittance system and secure the rights of migrant workers. In addition, they called for the creation of an environment that was conducive to retaining skilled labour and enhancing the investment of remittances in productive activities. Lastly, they underscored the view that remittances remained the most important source of financing for human and social development in West Africa.

IX. Consideration and adoption of the draft recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa [agenda item 9]

31. The Intergovernmental Committee considered and adopted the following recommendations and requested that the Bureau should convey them to the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at the fifty-eighth session of ECA.

32. Members of ECA should:

(a) Establish an effective system for organizing the informal sector, with a view to strengthening its contribution to tax collection, and combat fraud and tax inequality among taxpayers by leveraging digital technology;

(b) Implement adequate measures and specific support mechanisms to prevent the digital exclusion of rural, older and less educated populations and to protect small taxpayers from a rigid, automated system, while harnessing digitalization to strengthen domestic resource mobilization;

(c) Enhance information technology and data security systems to ensure that they are defended against cyberattacks and the loss of data and that they can maintain business continuity, and strengthen the national ownership of technological solutions;

(d) Leverage digital technologies to avoid double or multiple taxation and enhance transparency and accountability in resource mobilization by minimizing manual processes and reducing opportunities for corruption and mismanagement, in order to encourage the private sector to embrace the payment of relevant taxes;

(e) Strengthen mechanisms for disseminating information on tax procedures, in particular tax returns, and enhance tax education, awarenessraising among stakeholders and advocacy of fiscal citizenship to improve compliance;

(f) Undertake extensive national consultations on the Beyond Gross Domestic Product initiative and engage with partners at the regional level to promote an African common position and provide relevant input, taking into account the specificities of the continent;

(g) Invest in human capital by equipping young people with digital skills, promoting inclusive growth and fostering entrepreneurship and business opportunities, with a view to harnessing the demographic dividend, retaining talent and minimizing the brain drain;

(h) Take the necessary measures to strengthen the capacity of national statistical offices to ensure the timely production and dissemination of data;

(i) Promote financial inclusion through digitalization, incentives, appropriate regulatory and institutional instruments, and measures targeted at diasporas, with a view to lowering the costs of remittance transfer and attracting diaspora funds to finance development priorities;

(j) Strengthen the capacity of people who receive remittances to use the funds in an economically productive manner, including through targeted financial literacy and investment training programmes, in particular training for rural households on better channelling remittance inflows into agricultural investments, in order to enhance rural development and food security.

33. ECA, in partnership with regional and international organizations, should:

(a) Learn from the experiences of Sierra Leone and WAEMU, with a view to establishing a harmonized and effective common tax policy in West Africa, using digitalization and addressing issues related to the taxation of digital commerce;

(b) Support its members in sharing their experiences of harnessing the potential of innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development and aligning them with regional and national development strategies;

(c) Engage with its members using a guidance note and standardized template to collect their insights, as part of the ongoing global consultations on the Beyond Gross Domestic Product initiative;

(d) Support its members in taking greater advantage of the opportunities offered by various climate funds to finance infrastructure projects, in general, and climate adaptation projects, in particular;

(e) Continue to encourage its members to share their experiences of modernizing tax systems in order to improve revenue collection in West African countries;

(f) Conduct a study on the links between debt trends and progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 9, in West Africa;

(g) Include an assessment of the implementation of Agenda 2063 in all future editions of the document currently known as the report on progress made by West African States towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(h) Identify champions in implementing the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and regularly organize peer-to-peer learning forums in order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and best practices among its members and small and medium-sized enterprises.

34. ECOWAS, WAEMU and other subregional development organizations should:

(a) Promote the establishment of regional mechanisms or regulatory frameworks to coordinate the better use of remittances for investment in sustainable development financing;

(b) Promote the sharing of information on and best practices for harnessing diaspora funds to finance sustainable development in West Africa.

X. Date and venue of the next session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Senior Officials and Experts for West Africa [agenda item 10]

35. Participants decided that the twenty-ninth session of the Intergovernmental Committee would be held on mutually agreed dates in November 2026. Sierra Leone offered to host the session and ECA committed itself to providing the required support and guidance.

XI. Other matters [agenda item 11]

36. No other matters were raised.

XII. Closing of the session [agenda item 12]

37. The Chair of the Bureau of the twenty-eighth session of the Intergovernmental Committee, the Deputy Director of the Planning, Policy and Research Department of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development of Sierra Leone, Joseph Samah, delivered a vote of thanks on behalf of all participants.

38. The Director of the Subregional Office for West Africa expressed appreciation for the fruitful contributions and strategic guidance that had been provided during the session. She reaffirmed the commitment of ECA to prioritizing the needs of its members and continuing to engage with them. She then formally declared the proceedings of the twenty-eighth session of the Intergovernmental Committee closed.