



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 March 2026

Original: English

Economic Commission for Africa
Committee of Experts of the Conference of African
Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
Forty-fourth meeting
Tangier, Morocco (hybrid), 28–30 March 2026

Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda*
Statutory issues: proposed programme plan and budget
for 2027

Proposed programme plan for 2027 and programme performance for 2025: summary, and proposed programme budget for 2027**

I. Proposed programme plan for 2027 and programme performance for 2025: summary

A. Introduction

1. The proposed programme plan for 2027 of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is submitted to the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development for its consideration. After it is considered by the Conference of Ministers, the proposed programme plan will be reviewed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. The plan will subsequently be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

2. The present document contains a summary of the proposed programme plan for 2027, with an outline of the Commission's overall mandate and strategy and with adjustments made to the programme plan in line with the UN80 Initiative, and a snapshot of the Commission's performance in 2025 and its proposed plans for 2027. In preparing the proposed programme plan, due consideration was given to key global and regional frameworks, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union, the Pact for the Future,² the Global Digital Compact,³ the Declaration on Future Generations,⁴ the Paris Agreement on climate change,⁵ the Sevilla Commitment⁶ and the Doha Political Declaration

* E/ECA/COE/44/1/Rev.1.

** The present document is a summary of the proposed programme plan for 2027, the programme performance for 2025 and the proposed programme budget for 2027 of the Economic Commission for Africa, the full texts of which are under review by the Programme Planning and Budget Division.

¹ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

² General Assembly resolution 79/1.

³ Ibid., annex I.

⁴ Ibid., annex II.

⁵ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 79/323, annex.



of the Second World Summit for Social Development.⁷

B. Overall orientation

1. Mandate

3. Pursuant to resolution 671 A (XXV) of the Economic and Social Council, in which it established ECA, the Commission's mandate is to promote the economic and social development of its members, fostering intraregional integration and promoting international cooperation for the development of Africa. The work of ECA is also guided by relevant General Assembly resolutions and resolutions adopted under its intergovernmental structure, comprising the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and subsidiary organs.

2. Strategy and external factors for 2027

4. In 2027, ECA will continue to focus its work on the following five core strategic directions:

- (a) Leveraging knowledge to strengthen policymaking;
- (b) Developing policy options, in particular of a macroeconomic nature, to advance sustainable industrialization and economic diversification;
- (c) Promoting the use of data and statistics, designing financing models and supporting the development of human, physical and social infrastructure;
- (d) Deepening regional integration and fostering regional public goods, with an emphasis on social inclusion;
- (e) Advocating common positions for Africa on the global stage, while contributing to global governance debates.

5. ECA will intensify its support for its members in the areas of macroeconomic policy and development financing; regional integration, economic diversification and industrialization; infrastructure development, including energy; technology, innovation and connectivity; and climate action and food security, with concomitant attention to the cross-cutting themes of data and statistics and social dimensions, including gender.

6. To deliver on these priorities, ECA will take advantage of its convening, think tank and operational functions. It will draw on its convening power, making use of such platforms as the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development; it will exercise its think tank function through interdisciplinary research and policy analysis; and it will perform its operational role of offering tailored policy and technical support, often jointly with resident coordinator offices and other entities of the United Nations system. The Commission will continue to align its work with key international and regional frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, the Paris Agreement, the Sevilla Commitment and the Doha Political Declaration.

7. ECA will maintain close cooperation with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank and will deepen its partnerships with regional and subregional organizations, central banks, universities, think tanks, civil society and the private sector. It will expand South-South and triangular cooperation, based on the principles of complementarity and impact. As co-chair of the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa, ECA will strengthen its collaboration with regional United Nations entities and work closely with resident coordinators and United Nations

⁷ General Assembly resolution 80/5, annex.

country teams in addressing country-level needs.

8. The 2027 plan is underpinned by the assumptions that members of ECA will actively engage with and adopt the tools, models and recommendations put forward by ECA and that collaboration among Governments, development partners and the United Nations will ensure adequate and efficient financing for shared development goals.

9. Cross-cutting priorities will include the systematic integration into ECA programmes and activities of gender equality and the empowerment of women and young people, supported by targeted technical assistance, along with the mainstreaming of disability inclusion in line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy in order to ensure accessibility, participation and inclusiveness across the Commission's programmes and activities.

3. Adjustments arising from the UN80 Initiative

10. On 11 March 2025, the Secretary-General launched the UN80 Initiative, which was welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 79/318. The Initiative represents a major system-wide reform effort aimed at making the United Nations more agile, coherent and responsive amid tightening resources and growing global complexity. It is focused on improving operational efficiencies, streamlining mandates and exploring structural realignments to enhance impact. In its response to the Initiative, ECA has made organizational changes to its programme and structure in order to ensure better support for its members and to facilitate coherence, agility, responsiveness and incremental impact. ECA has also undertaken additional realignments beyond the UN80 process, with a view to further enhancing effectiveness and efficiency. Details of these realignments will be available in the forthcoming administrative note by the Executive Secretary on the recent organizational changes to the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

C. Performance in 2025: subprogramme-by-subprogramme snapshot

11. In terms of major achievements, under subprogramme 1, on macroeconomic policy, finance and governance, collaboration was undertaken with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, contributing to the development of national financing strategies and implementation road maps to guide the mobilization of sustainable and affordable financing, while containing debt risks in Cabo Verde and the Comoros.

12. Under subprogramme 2, on regional integration and trade, support was provided to Ethiopia in strengthening its operational readiness to trade under the Agreement Establishing African Continental Free Trade Area by tackling policy, regulatory and implementation bottlenecks to trade in goods and services. As a result, Ethiopia is better positioned to operationalize commitments under the Agreement, reduce trade costs and progressively integrate itself into intra-African markets, supporting inclusive growth, job creation and structural transformation in line with national development priorities and continental integration objectives.

13. Under subprogramme 3, on technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development, evidence-based digital policymaking was strengthened by equipping African policymakers with analytical tools and research that demonstrated how information and communications technology (ICT) tax reforms could expand digital access, boost gross domestic product and employment, and increase aggregate tax revenues through a broader tax base.

14. Under subprogramme 4, on data and statistics, the capacity of African countries to produce integrated economic statistics was enhanced, resulting in the incorporation of 10 countries in the African continental input-output table, with indicators on trade in value added designed to better inform trade and regional integration policies.

15. Under subprogramme 5, on climate change, food security and natural resources management, support was provided to Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana in aligning and validating an evidence-based framework for strengthening regional agricultural value chains and agro-industrial development, enhancing policy coherence, investment readiness and regional integration driven by the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

16. Under subprogramme 6, on the economic empowerment of women and youth, gender statistics and monitoring systems in Burundi and South Sudan were strengthened by building national capacity, improving coordination and supporting the adoption of the minimum set of gender indicators for Africa in order to enable more systematic and policy-relevant reporting on gender equality.

17. Under subprogramme 7, component 1, on subregional activities in North Africa, the capacity of African countries for sustainable finance and public debt management was strengthened by promoting peer learning on innovative financing instruments and supporting national reforms, including the development of the medium-term debt strategy in Egypt to reduce reliance on debt. Under component 2, on subregional activities in West Africa, support was provided for the incorporation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area into national legal frameworks by aligning national development plans with regional priorities and promoting regional value chains. These efforts helped to translate commitments under the Agreement into practical actions for industrialization, value addition and expanded regional trade across West Africa. Under component 3, on subregional activities in Central Africa, Sao Tome and Principe was enabled to validate and adopt its first tourism satellite accounts, enhancing the country's capacity to measure the contribution made by tourism to gross domestic product and to inform sustainable financing, planning and policymaking. Under component 4, on subregional activities in East Africa, regional integration was advanced by supporting the operationalization by Somalia of the African Continental Free Trade Area. Work under the component also contributed to that country's accession to the East African Community and the launch of Centennial Vision 2060, which is aimed at transforming Somalia into a peaceful, inclusive and middle-income country by 2060. Under component 5, on subregional activities in Southern Africa, the competitiveness of the private sector and of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises was strengthened by supporting the development and launch of the online trade, investment and technology platform of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), a digital tool that facilitates trade, investment, technology access and regional market integration.

18. Under subprogramme 8, on economic development and planning, national and regional capacities to design integrated, fiscally sustainable and gender-responsive social protection systems were strengthened, leading to the preparation of draft national social protection strategies for Cameroon, Senegal and Zimbabwe and expanded policy coherence across 48 African States.

19. Under subprogramme 9, on poverty and socioeconomic policy, assistance was provided in consolidating a common African position on social development priorities, ensuring that African perspectives on poverty reduction, decent jobs and human capital development guided the engagement at the Second World Summit for Social Development.

D. Programme of work

1. Subprogramme 1: Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance

20. To achieve structural transformation and inclusive growth in Africa through strengthened and effective development planning, macroeconomic policy analysis, enhanced economic governance and management, and innovative public and private sector financing, ECA will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

(a) Support its members in matters related to macroeconomic policy, economic governance, development planning and innovative public and private sector financing;

(b) Help its members to track progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, and to design and implement national development plans and monitor their fulfilment;

(c) Provide technical assistance, capacity-building and policy advice aimed at strengthening development planning, promoting transparent and accountable public financial management, developing innovative and sustainable financing and capital-market solutions, improving sovereign risk and credit rating frameworks, and enhancing skills for sustainable urbanization;

(d) Build the capacity of its members to design and implement governance and financial management frameworks that promote stronger economic resilience;

(e) Publish policy-relevant knowledge products and technical materials underpinned by research and macroeconomic modelling tools to support evidence-based policymaking and strengthened forecasting capacity.

21. Its main planned result for 2027 will be focused on improving economic and financial governance to enhance structural transformation and inclusive development.

2. Subprogramme 2: Regional integration and trade

22. To strengthen regional cooperation and integration among its members through increased trade flows, improved industrialization and increased investment, ECA will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

(a) Provide advisory services and technical support on market access and business opportunities arising from the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area;

(b) Develop and disseminate policy tools, analytical products and technical guidance in order to support diversification, value addition and the development of manufacturing and industrial clusters in support of the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa;

(c) Provide training related to the implementation of existing regional cooperation frameworks, with a particular focus on least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and regional economic communities;

(d) Provide advisory services and technical assistance to its members and to regional economic communities on regional integration, on national, regional and continental competition policies, on intellectual property policies and on measures aimed at facilitating investment.

23. Its main planned result for 2027 will be focused on improving national policy and institutional environments that are conducive to participation by the private sector in intra-African trade through the African Continental Free Trade Area.

3. Subprogramme 3: Technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development

24. To advance inclusive growth, sustainable development and economic transformation in Africa through science, technology and innovation, improved connectivity, logistics and infrastructure development, ECA will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

(a) Conduct policy research and analysis on digital trends across the continent, including new and emerging technologies; the state of energy, transport and ICT infrastructure at the national and regional levels; and the impact of logistics and connectivity on economic development;

(b) Provide technical assistance and advisory services to its members, the African Union and its bodies, and subregional organizations on: the design and implementation of regulatory frameworks that promote digital public infrastructure, digital systems and policies on science, technology and innovation; the construction of an academic and entrepreneurial environment for science, technology and innovation through partnerships and capacity-building initiatives; the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and the design of regulatory frameworks to enhance private sector investment; the development of transport infrastructure and services, with a particular focus on the liberalization of intra-African air transport in the context of the Single African Air Transport Market and the digitalization of transport infrastructure; and the development of infrastructure to improve energy access, advance market development and foster the transition to renewable sources of energy.

25. Its main planned result for 2027 will be focused on strengthening infrastructure policies and integrating frontier technologies in order to improve service delivery and productivity.

4. Subprogramme 4: Data and statistics

26. To strengthen the production, dissemination and use of credible data, statistics and geospatial information at the national, regional and global levels for evidence-based policy and decision-making, ECA will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

(a) Support African national statistical systems in transforming their data governance and management methods by digitalizing data production processes and providing technical assistance and training in the design and implementation of national strategies for the development of statistics and national spatial data infrastructure with related integrated geospatial information frameworks;

(b) Maintain and regularly update publicly accessible databases with harmonized data, statistics and geospatial information disaggregated by location on such topics as African economies, demographics, social indicators, the environment and other indicators required for monitoring the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(c) Provide training and platforms for the exchange of information and best practices among its members and their national statistical agencies;

(d) Provide policy advice and capacity-building on data, statistics and geospatial information to support its members in enhancing their monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

27. Its main planned result for 2027 will be focused on strengthening national statistical systems to support the regular production and use of innovative statistical products for evidence-based decision-making.

5. Subprogramme 5: Climate change, food security and natural resources

28. To enhance climate resilience, achieve food security and advance inclusive and sustainable development by harnessing land, natural resources and the green and blue economies, ECA will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

(a) Conduct policy research and analysis and provide technical assistance and advisory services to its members on: mineral-led production linkages and mineral policies; the circular economy and the green and blue economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, including support in conducting voluntary national and local reviews; the strengthening of climate resilience and reduction of disaster vulnerability; the modelling of the economic impacts of climate change to support the implementation of nationally determined contributions; land governance and land tenure security, including the use of tools based on the geographic information system; and agriculture and food-systems transformation, including financing, de-risking, regional value chains, common agro-parks and agro-industrialization;

(b) Convene peer-learning policy dialogues and regional consensus-building platforms and support African universities and research institutions in strengthening knowledge generation in the above-mentioned areas.

29. Its main planned result for 2027 will be focused on enhancing climate ambition, investment and climate action through the use of enhanced institutional instruments aligned with the climate priorities of Africa.

6. Subprogramme 6: Economic empowerment of women and youth

30. To achieve the economic empowerment of women and young people in Africa, by strengthening the design and implementation of inclusive and resilient policies and programmes by its members, in line with national development plans and strategies, and relevant global and regional commitments, ECA will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

(a) Undertake policy research and technical advisory services and build capacity on issues relating to the economic empowerment of women and young people, including financial inclusion, digitalization, education and entrepreneurship;

(b) Support its members in integrating gender and youth perspectives into development policies, programmes and frameworks across sectors, and in measuring progress and reporting on global, regional and national commitments to gender equality, youth empowerment and social inclusion;

(c) Develop the capacity of women and youth entrepreneurs and of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises owned by women and young people in digital skills, creative content, online marketing, financial literacy, e-commerce and the use of digital tools, services and platforms, including artificial intelligence.

31. Its main planned result for 2027 will be focused on empowering women and youth entrepreneurs by leveraging digitalization.

7. Subprogramme 7: Subregional activities for development**(a) Component 1: Subregional activities in North Africa**

32. To advance inclusive growth and sustainable development in North Africa through strengthened economic diversification, fiscal management, regional integration and improved recognition of the economic contributions of migrant workers, ECA will undertake the following activities under the component:

(a) Develop evidence-based policies, strategies and reforms and provide technical assistance in relation to economic diversification and the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area in partnership with ministries of trade and the African Union and resilient and inclusive economies;

(b) Provide advisory services and hold subregional consultations on the mobilization of domestic resources, fiscal and debt management and sustainable finance;

(c) Provide technical assistance, advisory services and training on analysis, evidence-based policy formulation and the development of adequate frameworks to mainstream and better leverage the economic contributions made by diaspora communities;

(d) Conduct research and analysis on the challenges facing middle-income countries in North Africa, focusing on development and climate finance, human capital, employment creation, digitalization and the green economy in the context of sustainable development.

33. Its main planned result for 2027 will be focused on actions to maximize diaspora engagement and alternative sources of finance for development.

(b) Component 2: Subregional activities in West Africa

34. To advance inclusive development in West Africa by strengthening national capacity to integrate demographic dynamics into policies and planning processes and to deepen regional integration, ECA will undertake the following activities under the component:

(a) Provide knowledge, tools and policy recommendations on the acceleration of a demographic transition and related implications for sustainable development and climate resilience, in such areas as population dynamics, migration, health and mortality, ageing and living conditions, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, young people, and sustainable peace and resilience;

(b) Engage in high-level policy dialogues and provide technical support and capacity-building to countries on regional integration issues, including the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, development planning, and the development of budgeting frameworks that are sensitive to the demographic dividend, with emphasis on the empowerment of women and young people.

35. Its main planned result for 2027 will be focused on enhancing national budgeting and monitoring systems to harness the demographic dividend.

(c) Component 3: Subregional activities in Central Africa

36. To expand the manufacturing and high-value service sectors and increase the share of tradable and manufactured goods in total exports, deepen regional value chains and improve the competitiveness and productivity of local economies in order to accelerate economic diversification and structural transformation in Central Africa, ECA will undertake the following activities under the component:

(a) Provide technical assistance and advisory services to its members and to regional economic communities on formulating and implementing national and subregional development plans and economic diversification strategies; translating national and regional strategies for the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area into specific and bankable projects; transforming transport corridors into development corridors; developing ICT infrastructure and regulatory frameworks for the digital transition; ensuring that the trade instruments of the Economic Community of Central African States and those of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community are harmonized with each other; and promoting the sustainable use of natural capital assets to support value addition;

(b) Collaborate with the private sector, subregional think tanks and regional economic communities in the above-mentioned areas, and train its members and United Nations country teams in the use of integrated planning and reporting toolkits.

37. Its main planned result for 2027 will be focused on mobilizing sustainable financing through strengthened strategic partnerships to support economic diversification initiatives.

(d) Component 4: Subregional activities in East Africa

38. To achieve deeper regional integration in East Africa by advancing the operationalization of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, increasing intraregional investments, harnessing the blue economy and enhancing tourism, ECA will undertake the following activities under the component:

(a) Provide support to countries and regional economic communities through knowledge production, technical assistance, capacity-building and policy dialogues on the development and effective implementation of national and regional strategies related to the African Continental Free Trade Area;

(b) Build capacity in the private sector to participate effectively in the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area, including through detailed step-by-step guides, practical advisory services and information sessions on key instruments and protocol;

(c) Engage in policy dialogue and provide training to promote transboundary investments and cost-effective trade logistics, including digital platforms and commodity exchanges to reduce asymmetries of information;

(d) Foster the development of regional value chains in food and agriculture through analysis and the dissemination of information to stakeholders in both the public and private sectors on opportunities for investment and competitiveness;

(e) Convene a subregional forum on issues related to the blue economy, including its potential to diversify goods and services and to operationalize the African Continental Free Trade Area, assess the socioeconomic potential of the blue economy and conduct market analyses for small and medium-sized enterprises;

(f) Support its members in the development of national tourism strategies, in line with the recommendations set out in the African tourism strategy and provide training on the production of high-quality tourism statistics in the subregion.

39. Its main planned result for 2027 will be focused on strengthening connectivity and infrastructure for deeper integration.

(e) Component 5: Subregional activities in Southern Africa

40. To deepen regional integration and strengthen capacities to achieve inclusive and sustainable industrialization for the reduction of poverty and inequality in Southern Africa, ECA will undertake the following activities under the component:

(a) Undertake policy research and analysis on inclusive and sustainable industrialization, value chain development, regional integration and trade, private sector development, and poverty and inequality;

(b) Provide technical assistance to its members, regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations and disseminate best practices at the subregional and national levels;

(c) Develop and disseminate policy tools and guidelines for the promotion of trade, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, including value addition, manufacturing and value chain development, at the national and subregional levels in Southern Africa;

(d) Support its members in the implementation of Vision 2050 of SADC and its regional indicative strategic development plan for 2020–2030;

(e) Collaborate with the African Union Southern Africa Regional Office, SADC, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the African Development Bank, the African Export-Import Bank, private sector associations, business councils and research institutions to strengthen capacities for industrial policy implementation, energy access, trade facilitation and regional economic integration;

(f) Support the integration of climate change considerations into national and subregional industrialization and trade policies and strengthen the capacities of its members and of private sector bodies to leverage digitalization, science, technology and innovation to increase productive capacities, build resilience and enhance competitiveness.

41. Its main planned result for 2027 will be focused on the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and other trade agreements in Southern Africa.

8. Subprogramme 8: Economic development and planning

42. To strengthen the development planning of African countries and to improve their capacity to formulate and manage effective public sector policies for structural transformation and sustainable development, ECA will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

(a) Deliver training on sectoral, national and regional development planning, including in the medium to long-term, and on risk-informed approaches that address the socioeconomic impacts of emerging crises;

(b) Promote peer learning and collaboration among African development planners through communities of practice and broaden access to the digitized knowledge repository of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning;

(c) Enhance the capacity of countries to monitor and evaluate implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and national development frameworks;

(d) Foster knowledge generation, the exchange of ideas and policy dialogue through research activities, fellowship programmes, development seminars and high-level exchanges, including strengthened collaboration with academic and policy research networks;

(e) Support the integration of gender and youth-related issues, social inclusion, employment, innovation, digital transformation and green economy considerations into public policies through targeted capacity-building initiatives.

43. Its main planned results for 2027 will be focused on strengthening institutional capacities for the efficient implementation of national development plans aligned with regional and global agendas.

9. Subprogramme 9: Poverty and socioeconomic policy

44. To eradicate extreme poverty and reduce multidimensional poverty by ensuring that its members have evidence-based policies and strategies for social investment and productive job creation, ECA will undertake the following activities under the subprogramme:

(a) Develop analytical knowledge, provide technical assistance and promote regional dialogue and learning on the design of national social policies and strategies aimed at reducing multidimensional poverty and strengthening social protection systems for the most vulnerable;

(b) Generate knowledge, provide technical assistance and facilitate regional dialogue on strategies to leverage migration for inclusive development;

(c) Support the regional implementation and appraisal of global agreements, including the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,⁸ the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing,⁹ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹⁰ and the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014;¹¹

(d) Enhance the knowledge and skills of its members through the provision of technical assistance and regional policy learning and dialogue on youth employment, with a view to enhancing job creation, leveraging the demographic dividend and strengthening social cohesion.

45. Its main planned results for 2027 will be focused on strengthening evidence-based employment policies to harness the demographic dividend of Africa.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 73/195, annex.

⁹ A/CONF.197/9, resolution I, annex II.

¹⁰ A/CONF.171/13/Rev.1, resolution I.

¹¹ ECA/ICPD/MIN/2013/4.

II. Proposed programme budget for 2027

A. Part IV International cooperation for development

Section 11

United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

Programme 9

United Nations system support for the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want – strategic partnership for progress towards implementation

Subprogramme 2

Regional coordination of United Nations support for the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063

Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2027

- 11.1 The proposed regular budget resources for 2027 amount to \$1,008,300, representing a net increase of \$2,700 (0.003 per cent) – a minimal change compared with the 2026 appropriation. The adjustment in resources is attributable primarily to price adjustments. The proposed increase in the resource level is intended to support the full, efficient and effective implementation of mandated activities. Additional details are reflected in table 11.1.

Table 11.1

Subprogramme 2: evolution of financial and post resources

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2025 expenditure	2026 Appropriation	Changes				Total	Percentage	2027 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other				
Financial resources by main category of expenditure									
Post	950.5	785.8	–	–	–	–	–	785.8	
Non-post	66.0	219.8	–	–	–	2.7	–	222.5	
Total	1 016.5	1 005.6	–	–	–	2.7	–	1 008.3	
(Number of posts)									
Post resources by category									
Professional and higher	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	4	
General Service and related	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	
Total	–	5	–	–	–	–	–	5	

B. Part V
Regional cooperation for development

Section 18
Economic and social development in Africa

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Africa

Proposed post and non-post resource requirements for 2027

- 18.1 The proposed regular budget resources for 2027 are reflected in tables 18.1 and 18.2.
- 18.2 The overall regular budget post and non-post resources proposed for 2027 amount to \$81,459,200 before recosting, representing a reduction of 12.84 per cent, or \$11,997,300, compared with the appropriation for 2025 of \$93,456,300. This adjustment is fully aligned with the Organization-wide savings target under the UN80 Initiative. The proposed level of resources will provide for the full, efficient and effective implementation of ECA mandates.

Table 18.1

Overall: evolution of financial resources by object of expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	2025 expenditure	2026 approved	Changes				Total	Percentage	2027 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other				
Posts	60 115	53 773	–	–	–	–	–	53 773	
Other staff costs	4 399	3 878	–	–	–	–	–	3 878	
Hospitality	10	25	–	–	–	–	–	25	
Consultants	1 486	1 470	–	–	–	–	–	1 470	
Experts	423	2 284	–	–	–	–	–	2 284	
Travel of staff	1 007	1 183	–	–	–	–	–	1 183	
Contractual services	7 092	8 006	–	–	–	–	–	8 006	
General operating expenses	4 461	6 257	–	–	–	–	–	6 257	
Supplies and materials	230	739	–	–	–	–	–	739	
Furniture and equipment	1 986	2 701	–	–	–	–	–	2 701	
Improvement of premises	97	187	–	–	–	–	–	187	
Grants and contributions	1 127	956	–	–	–	–	–	956	
Other	126	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Total	82 556	81 459	–	–	–	–	–	81 459	

Table 18.2
Overall: proposed posts by category and grade
 (Number of posts)

Category and grade	2026 approved	Changes				2027 proposed
		Technical adjustments	New/expande d mandates	Other	Total	
Professional and higher						
USG	1	–	–	–	–	1
D-2	2	–	–	–	–	2
D-1	15	–	–	–	–	15
P-5	37	–	–	(1)	(1)	36
P-4	64	–	–	–	–	64
P-3	72	–	–	1	1	73
P-2/1	24	–	–	–	–	24
Subtotal	215	–	–	–	–	215
General Service and related						
National Professional Officer	19	–	–	1	1	20
Local level	260	–	–	–	–	260
Subtotal	279	–	–	1	1	280
Total	494	–	–	1	1	495

18.3 The evolution of non-post resources (regular budget and extrabudgetary) by component and subprogramme is reflected in table 18.3.

Table 18.3
Overall: evolution of financial resources by source of funding, component and subprogramme
 (Thousands of United States dollars)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component/subprogramme	2025 expenditure	2026 appropriation	Changes				2027 estimate (before recosting)
			Technical adjustments	New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	
A. Policymaking organs	395	505	–	–	–	–	505
B. Executive direction and management	9 309	9 143	–	–	–	–	9 143
C. Programme of work							
1. Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance	4 038	4 654	–	–	–	–	4 654
2. Regional integration and trade	3 522	3 205	–	–	–	–	3 205
3. Technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development	2 338	2 422	–	–	–	–	2 422
4. Data and statistics	4 902	4 674	–	–	–	–	4 674
5. Climate change, food security and natural resources	3 997	2 999	–	–	–	–	2 999
6. Economic empowerment of women and youth	1 086	1 100	–	–	–	–	1 100
7. Subregional activities for development							
(a) Subregional activities in North Africa	3 236	3 369	–	–	–	–	3 369

Component/subprogramme	2025 expenditure	2026 appropriation	Technical adjustments	Changes				2027 estimate (before recosting)
				New/ expanded mandates	Other	Total	Percentage	
(b) Subregional activities in West Africa	2 954	3 369	–	–	–	–	–	3 369
(c) Subregional activities in Central Africa	3 622	3 966	–	–	–	–	–	3 966
(d) Subregional activities in East Africa	2 521	3 469	–	–	–	–	–	3 469
(e) Subregional activities in Southern Africa	2 744	3 447	–	–	–	–	–	3 447
Subtotal, subprogramme 7	15 077	17 620	–	–	–	–	–	17 620
8. Economic development and planning	1 643	2 667	–	–	–	–	–	2 667
9. Poverty and socioeconomic policy	3 500	2 400	–	–	–	–	–	2 400
Subtotal, C	40 103	41 741	–	–	–	–	–	41 741
D. Programme support	32 748	30 070	–	–	–	–	–	30 070
Subtotal, 1	82 556	81 459	–	–	–	–	–	81 459

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

Component/subprogramme	2025 expenditure	2026 estimate	Change	Percentage	2027 estimate
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	1 235	843	(162)	(19)	681
C. Programme of work					
1. Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance	314	2 601	(1 470)	(57)	1 131
2. Regional integration and trade	4 056	2 479	(35)	(1)	2 444
3. Technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development	893	570	(570)	(100)	–
4. Data and statistics	2 404	3 956	(2 335)	(59)	1 621
5. Climate change, food security and natural resources	2 334	5 514	(653)	(12)	4 861
6. Economic empowerment of women and youth	–	–	–	–	–
7. Subregional activities for development					
(a) Subregional activities in North Africa	169	170	(170)	(100)	–
(b) Subregional activities in West Africa	65	–	–	–	–
(c) Subregional activities in Central Africa	–	–	–	–	–
(d) Subregional activities in East Africa	340	92	(92)	(100)	–
(e) Subregional activities in Southern Africa	–	205	(205)	(100)	–
Subtotal, subprogramme 7	574	467	(467)	(100)	–
8. Economic development and planning	1 052	2 943	(514)	(17)	2 429
9. Poverty and socioeconomic policy	1 302	–	–	–	–
Subtotal, C	12 930	18 530	(6 044)	(33)	12 486
D. Programme support	7 667	9 211	2 928	32	12 139
Subtotal, 2	21 832	28 584	(3 278)	(12)	25 306
Total	104 388	110 043	(3 278)	(3)	106 765

18.4 Proposed post resources (regular budget and extrabudgetary) by component and subprogramme are reflected in table 18.4.

Table 18.4

Overall: proposed post resources by source of funding, component and subprogramme
(Number of posts)

(1) *Regular budget*

Component/subprogramme	Changes				Total	2027 proposed
	2026 approved	Technical adjustments	New/expanded mandates	Other		
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	50	–	–	5	5	55
C. Programme of work						
1. Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance	31	–	–	–	–	31
2. Regional integration and trade	22	–	–	–	–	22
3. Technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development	15	–	–	–	–	15
4. Data and statistics	34	–	–	–	–	34
5. Climate change, food security and natural resources	16	–	–	–	–	16
6. Economic empowerment of women and youth	6	–	–	–	–	6
7. Subregional activities for development						
(a) Subregional activities in North Africa	18	–	–	–	–	18
(b) Subregional activities in West Africa	18	–	–	–	–	18
(c) Subregional activities in Central Africa	20	–	–	(1)	(1)	19
(d) Subregional activities in East Africa	18	–	–	–	–	18
(e) Subregional activities in Southern Africa	18	–	–	–	–	18
Subtotal, subprogramme 7	92	–	–	(1)	(1)	91
8. Economic development and planning	5	–	–	–	–	5
9. Poverty and socioeconomic policy	12	–	–	1	1	13
Subtotal, C	233	–	–	(1)	(1)	232
D. Programme support	211	–	–	(4)	(4)	207
Subtotal, 1	494	–	–	1	1	495

(2) *Extrabudgetary*

<i>Component/subprogramme</i>	<i>2026 estimate</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>2027 estimate</i>
A. Policymaking organs	–	–	–
B. Executive direction and management	4		4
C. Programme of work			
1. Macroeconomic policy, finance and governance	1	–	1
2. Regional integration and trade	5	–	5
3. Technology, innovation, connectivity and infrastructure development	–	–	–
4. Data and statistics	4	–	4
5. Climate change, food security and natural resources	4	–	4
6. Economic empowerment of women and youth	–	–	–
7. Subregional activities for development	–	–	–
(a) Subregional activities in North Africa	–	–	–
(b) Subregional activities in West Africa	–	–	–
(c) Subregional activities in Central Africa	–	–	–
(d) Subregional activities in East Africa	–	–	–
(e) Subregional activities in Southern Africa	–	–	–
8. Economic development and planning	20	–	20
9. Poverty and socioeconomic policy	–	–	–
Subtotal, C	34	–	34
D. Programme support	39	13	52
Subtotal, 2	77	13	90
Total	571	14	585

Extrabudgetary resources

18.5 As reflected in tables 18.3 (2) and 18.4 (2), extrabudgetary resources total \$25,306,000 and will support technical cooperation and capacity-building for members of ECA in priority areas. These include: expanding fiscal space; advancing the structural economic transformation of Africa; leveraging “green minerals” and the African Continental Free Trade Area to strengthen regional value chains and domestic resource mobilization for inclusive and sustainable industrialization; enhancing climate risk management and resilience among members of the African Island States Climate Commission; promoting data integration and innovation; supporting the digitization of civil registration and vital statistics systems; and implementing the International Climate Initiative.

18.6 From 2027, ECA will assume leadership of the common administrative platform in Ethiopia. The initial phase will involve the integration of the administrative functions of the United Nations Office to the African Union into ECA, encompassing 13 posts with an estimated cost of \$1.97 million, along with \$0.122 million in associated non-post expenditures. Insights gained from this initial consolidation will inform the subsequent integration of additional

United Nations Secretariat entities, planned from 2028 onward. This phased approach is aimed at centralizing administrative, finance, human resources, information technology, procurement, logistics and protocol functions within a unified platform. The objective is to streamline operations and reduce administrative costs across the United Nations Secretariat. The common administrative platform model is expected to deliver efficiencies through economies of scale and the consolidation of currently fragmented capacities, thereby lowering operational costs while enhancing overall programmatic effectiveness.

- 18.7 The projected decrease of \$4,027,900 is mainly attributable to the expiration of 17 of the 30 grants currently active in 2026. Efforts are under way to mobilize additional extrabudgetary resources in 2026 and 2027 through targeted outreach to partners, including foundations, as well as programme-based round-table engagements. Resource mobilization faces notable challenges, however, including continued reductions in donors' official development assistance budgets, broader fiscal constraints and growing competition for limited funding in the current global financial environment. Long-standing partners such as Canada have also indicated potential official development assistance reductions of 10 to 15 per cent, which may affect the scope of collaboration and support beyond 2026. The implications of the withdrawal of the United States of America from ECA with regard to partnerships with United States-based foundations and partners remain uncertain, although there is currently no direct extrabudgetary partnership with the United States. In response, the Commission is expanding and diversifying its partnership efforts, including engagement with climate funds and development finance institutions. In addition, an integrated resource planning and utilization process initiated in 2025 is aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of extrabudgetary projects and grants.
- 18.8 The extrabudgetary resources under the present section are subject to the oversight of the Executive Secretary of ECA, who holds delegated authority from the Secretary-General.

C. Part V Regional cooperation for development

Section 23 Regular programme of technical cooperation

Proposed non-post resource requirements for 2027

- 23.1 The ECA regular programme of technical cooperation is used to support African countries in their capacity-building initiatives, with a view to fostering inclusive and sustainable economic and social development by accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.
- 23.2 Activities under the regular programme of technical cooperation will be implemented to complement those under programme 15 (Economic and social development in Africa). ECA will provide its capacity-building services by fostering system-wide synergies, strategic initiatives, policy dialogue, policy advisory services, skills development and the facilitation and management of knowledge.
- 23.3 In this context, the ECA programme of work, as reflected in its nine subprogrammes, is organized into five strategic focus areas and two cross-cutting areas. The strategic focus areas are: macroeconomic policies, development financing and economic governance; regional integration, economic diversification and industrialization; infrastructure development,

including energy; technology, innovation and connectivity; and climate change and food security. The cross-cutting areas are data and statistics, and social dimensions (including gender).

- 23.4 The proposed regular budget resources for 2027 amount to \$12,031,400, reflecting an increase of \$226,500 in the resource level compared with the 2026 appropriation. Additional details are reflected in table 23.1.

Table 23.1

Overall: evolution of financial resources, by object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	2025 expenditure	2026 appropriation	Changes		2027 estimate
			Amount	Percentage	
Other staff costs	2 149.8	4 202.2	–	–	4 202.2
Consultants and experts	2 684.5	2 016.8	–	–	2 016.8
Travel – representatives	2.2	–	–	–	–
Travel on official business	1 021.2	412.5	–	–	412.5
Contractual services	1 229.3	509.5	--	--	509.5
General operating expenses	487.4	–	–	–	–
Supplies and materials	–	–	–	–	–
Furniture and equipment	49.3	–	–	–	–
Fellowships, grants and contributions	1 860.6	4 663.9	226.5	4.8	4 890.4
Total	9 484.1	11 804.9	226.5	1.9	12 031.4